

Telegrams :
"CARIB," LONDON.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.

January 23rd, 1899.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.

General satisfaction is felt at the honour which Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to confer on Mr. Neville Lubbock, as Chairman of the West India Committee, by appointing him to be a Knight Commander of the most distinguished order of Saint Michael and Saint George for services in connection with the West Indian Colonies. Members and Subscribers will heartily endorse the resolution which, proposed by Mr. Spencer H. Curtis and seconded by Mr. R. Rutherford, was carried with enthusiasm at a Meeting of the Acting Committee held on January 5th, congratulating Sir Neville Lubbock upon his appointment and expressing a hope that he might live long to enjoy the honour thus bestowed on him. For nearly thirty years, as a Member of the West India Committee, and since 1884 as its Chairman, Sir Neville Lubbock has laboured unremittingly for the West Indies, and we sincerely trust that this recognition may prove to be in the words of the motto of the order, "Auspiciis melioris aevi," and that the hope expressed by the *London Review* that the honour points to some more drastic action in the West Indies trouble on the part of the Government than it has hitherto taken, may speedily be fulfilled. Sir Neville Lubbock left for the West Indies by the R.M.S. "Atrato," on January 11th with Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., M.P. the object of their journey being to ascertain the possibility of organising some scheme for the erection of Central Factories in the Islands.

THE FRENCH BOUNTIES.

It is thought probable that a change in the French Indirect Bounty will shortly be proposed raising the legal yield from $7\frac{3}{4}$ to $8\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and reducing the duty from 60 fr. to 50 fr., but it is understood that such a change, if made, will not come into force until 1900. If the opposition is not content with this change and forces the Government to raise the legal yield to 9 per cent. it is possible that the Belgian negotiations may be re-opened.

PUBLIC MEETING AT THE CANNON ST. HOTEL.

A report of the Public Meeting held at the Cannon Street Hotel on January 9th, under the auspices of the Anti-Bounty League having appeared in the daily Press, it is unnecessary to include more than the resolutions, which were then passed, in the present circular. Lord Stanmore, in his opening remarks, pointed out that the support now being extended to the Anti-Bounty Movement both by Mauritius, Queensland, India, and by the Public and Press of this country, augured well for a successful issue to the operations of the League.

Moved by SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G., and

Seconded by SIR HORACE TOZER, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for Queensland.

It was Resolved—

1.—"That the Anti-Bounty League hereby records on behalf of those interested in the Sugar industry in all parts of the British Empire its disappointment and regret at the failure of the Brussels Conference to secure by International Treaty the suppression of the Foreign State Bounty System":

Moved by MR. ARTHUR EADES, Secretary of the Birmingham Trades' Council, and

Seconded by ADMIRAL SIR JOHN E. COMMEREILL, G.C.B., V.C.

It was Resolved—

2.—"That such failure is, in the opinion of this Meeting, due to the 'attitude of Reserve' enjoined by Her Majesty's Government on the British Delegates to that Conference in their formal letter of instructions, dated May 31st, 1898; and, further, that such instructions are inconsistent, not only with the previous declarations of Her Majesty's Ministers on this subject, but also with the profession put forward in the said letter that 'it is the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to secure the suppression of all Bounties on Sugar, which they consider to be prejudicial to the general interests of the British Empire'":

Moved by SIR M. M. BROWNAGGREG, K.C.L.E., M.P., and
 Seconded by LIEUT.-GENERAL F. WIMBURN, LAURIE, M.P.

It was Resolved—

3.—“That in view of these declarations and of the fact that it has been officially stated by the representatives of Her Majesty's Government at the Conference, that the Governments of Germany, Austria, Belgium and Holland have expressed their desire to abolish their systems of Bounties, this Meeting calls on her Majesty's Government to enter, without further delay, into a Convention for the abolition of Bounties with the above Powers, guaranteeing to them and British producers alike security in the open markets of the British Empire, against the state-aided competition of such other bounty giving countries as may refuse to become parties to the Convention, pending the adhesion of such countries to the said International Convention.”

COOLIE IMMIGRATION.

A cablegram has been received from Demerara stating that the number of coolie immigrants applied for for the coming season in British Guiana is 5,565. With regard to the payment by the employer of East Indian indentured labour of his share of repatriation expenses, the British Guiana Planters' Association received on December 23rd, 1898, a letter from the Governor stating that the several promissory notes to be given for the balance of those expenses after the payment of the one-fifth cash instalment should be calculated as follows: “The amount to be paid by the Planters to be calculated to improve at 1½% simple interest during the first five years, and, for the second five years the amount contributed by the Planters, including interest for the first five years, to be calculated to improve at 2½% compound interest for the second five years, to produce in all at the end of the ten years the full amount the Planters have to pay for their portion of the Return Passages.” The Receiver-General has been instructed to have the notes in respect of the present season calculated in accordance therewith, and at once issued for signature.

THE COOLIE CARRYING CONTRACT.

The Secretary of State has received a telegram from the British Guiana Government stating that a contract has been arranged with the local agent of the late Mr. Nourse's executors for the conveyance of coolie immigrants from Calcutta to Demerara for a period of five years.

JAMAICA'S FINANCES.

Sir David Barbour left for Jamaica on January 11th as a Commissioner to report on the financial condition of that Colony.

It is reported from Jamaica that in a despatch dealing comprehensively with the financial and commercial prospects of the colony Mr. Chamberlain estimates the deficit at the end of March at £172,000. He states that examination shows the position of affairs to be so critical that, unless the revenue is much increased and expenditure curtailed, the colony will shortly become unable to meet its existing and impending liabilities. He holds that, so long as the island enjoys a protected market in the United States, a countervailing duty or the abolition of bounties would not pecuniarily benefit the Jamaica planters. He does not consider official salaries too high, and has been forced to the conclusion that throughout the colonial service the higher officials are by no means overpaid.

From this despatch it would seem that Mr. Chamberlain is still under the misapprehension which led him to say in the House of Commons on August 2nd, 1898, that “if the bounties were abolished the direct and immediate effect on the Sugar interest would be a loss.” The United States have put countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar, and by so doing they have created a free-trade sugar market for the West Indian; if bounties were abolished, there would be a free-trade sugar market in England also, and it is surely evident that two open markets are better than one. Members will find this point fully explained in Circular No. 7, of August 23rd, 1898.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

On December 29th, 1898, the West India Committee received a communication from the Colonial Office to the effect that negotiations for a Reciprocity Treaty between the West Indies and the United States of America were still proceeding, but that Mr. Chamberlain is unable at the present moment to express an opinion as to the prospect of their reaching a satisfactory termination.

ST. LUCIA'S CLAIM FOR ASSISTANCE.

On December 23rd, 1898, the West India Committee forwarded to the Secretary of State copies of the resolutions which were passed at a Public Meeting held at Castries, St. Lucia, on December 8th, and subsequently entrusted to them for transmission. The Memorial indicates the consternation which has been created among the population of St. Lucia at their non-inclusion in the scheme recently formulated by the British Government for the relief of distress caused by the hurricane in September last, and points out that the St. Lucia planters who have not as yet recovered from the effects of the cyclone of 1894, urgently require Government assistance, the absence of which the public fears may be due to the delay of the inspectors who were appointed to examine and report upon the losses. The principal resolution states that the Meeting, relying with absolute confidence on the justice of the claims of St. Lucia for the same generous treatment as has been accorded to Barbados and St. Vincent, expresses its full conviction and confidence that the British Government will include St. Lucia in the scheme of relief.

A letter has since been received from Mr. Chamberlain stating that the resolutions and the representations of the Committee on the subject will be considered when the full official reports of the damage caused by the hurricane are received.

THE CLOSING OF CODRINGTON COLLEGE.

Codrington College, Barbados, has fallen a victim to the blighting hand of the Bounty system, the fiat having gone forth that in June next this seat of learning must close its doors, the income from the bequeathed estates upon which it is dependent, being no longer sufficient for its upkeep owing to the effect of the foreign state bounties. It is significant that while subscriptions are being successfully solicited for the erection of the Gordon College, in Africa, the only University in the West Indies should be compelled to end its career of utility by the denial of the justice which it claims. Codrington College was founded in 1710, under the will of Christopher Codrington, Captain-General of the Leeward Islands, and was in 1875 affiliated to Durham University. The Bounties have thus struck a blow at the highest form of education, and it is lamentable to think that Codrington's beautiful buildings and grounds will be left to ruin and decay. At a Meeting of the Acting Committee, held on January 12th, a Sub-Committee consisting of Mr. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shepherd, and the Secretary was appointed to inquire into the proposed closing of the College.

BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

The first Agricultural Conference under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture was held in the Council Chamber at Barbados on January 7th and 9th under the presidency of Dr. Morris. Proceedings were opened by Sir James S. Hay, the Governor, and among the subjects dealt with were the following:—

- (1) Suggestions for further work in the improvement of the Sugar Cane in the West Indies. (Professor HARRISON.)
- (2) Manurial Experiments. (Professor D'ALBUQUERQUE).
- (3) Field Treatment of Diseases of the Sugar Cane in the West Indies. (Mr. J. R. BOVELL).
- (4) Central Factories; their Advantages and the conditions necessary for their successful establishment in the West Indies. (Mr. WILLIAM DOUGLAS, Mr. FRANCIS WATTS, and others).
- (5) Agricultural Education. (Rev. W. SIMMS).
- (6) Agricultural Schools and the Employment of Travelling Agricultural Instructors. (Mr. W. FAWCETT).
- (7) Improvement in Agricultural Methods in the West Indies. (Mr. J. H. HART).

The Conference was fully representative, being attended by the leading Botanists and Chemists of Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, the Windward and Leeward Islands, and Barbados.

A DOMINICA MEMORIAL.

A copy of an influentially-signed Memorial to the Secretary of State, suggesting the establishment of a weekly steam service round that Island in conjunction with the proposed system of communication with abroad, received from Dominica, has been laid on the table for the inspection of Members. On January 11th, the West India Committee, after carefully considering the matter, addressed a letter to the Colonial Office, supporting the representations of the Memorial, and on January 18th received a reply stating that Mr. Chamberlain is in correspondence with the Governor of the Leeward Islands on this matter, and that it will not be lost sight of.

ANTIGUA.

The West India Committee have also given their support to the Antigua petition (to which reference was made in last circular) against a proposal of the Local Government to increase taxation on certain articles of consumption, and on live stock, and praying that the reduction of the land tax granted for last year might be continued, but no reply has as yet been received from the Secretary of State.

THE JAMAICA-LONDON FRUIT SERVICE.

Mr. Stockley, who recently visited the West Indies on behalf of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., to report on the possibility of establishing a fruit service between Jamaica and London, is hopeful of the prospects of such a trade. Owing, in great measure, to the enterprise of the Jamaica Royal Agricultural Society, an experimental shipment of oranges and bananas has been made, with satisfactory results; 150 bunches of bananas in all were sent over—of these, ten bunches were put up wrapped first in cotton wool, and then bound round with trash and carefully packed crates. Then another ten bunches were wrapped in old newspaper, bound round with trash, and crated also. Twelve bunches were bound up only in trash and put in crates, and the rest of the bunches were either bound lightly in trash or shipped bare. The arrangements for receiving and loading the fruit at the wharf appear to have been defective, the bananas having to be unloaded in the open yard and exposed to the full heat of the sun, then loaded on to trucks and run up to the steamer's side, where the loose bunches were taken up the passenger gangway on men's heads, placed on the deck, then handed down to the middle deck, and again to men in the ventilated chamber below. In spite of this repeated handling, however, a considerable quantity of the fruit arrived in good condition.

QUEENSLAND'S SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The *Mackay Sugar Journal* of November 1st, 1898, gives some important statistics of the Queensland sugar industry during the year 1897. The total product of the canefields was 97,916 tons, which were taken off 65,432 acres, giving an average of 1.50 tons to the acre, as against 1.51 tons for 1896; 1.516 being the average for the last 10 years. The total area under cane in 1897 (omitting what was grown for feed) was 98,641 acres, an increase of 15,548 acres, or 18.7 per cent., as against an increase of only 7 per cent. in 1896. The Queensland cane crop now covers 26.5 per cent. of the whole cultivated area in Queensland, and is nearly equal in extent to maize, which occupies 109,721 acres, or 29.5 per cent. of the whole. The value of the sugar produced in 1897 was less than that of the previous year. Taking sugar at the basis of 88 per cent. net titre, the refiners paid only £8 18s. 5d., as against £9 17s. in 1896, a reduction of 18s. 7d. Consequently, the value of sugar per acre was £13 7s. 7d., as against £14 18s. 5d. in 1896. Seeing that the average cost of producing a ton of sugar is over £8, equal to not less than, say, £12 10s. per acre, it is clear that the 1897 profits, even under the most favourable circumstances, afforded little margin for extras or deficiencies. The total value of the sugar produced of course shows a decrease, being £873,900, as against £924,097 in 1896. The decrease is considerable, though it can be readily accounted for in the smaller production and the lower price obtained by the manufacturers. The sugar machinery imports, valued at £13,372, paid £1,436 in duty, though this sum does not cover the amounts paid on machinery used in sugar-mills, but not exclusively so, while of course there were large imports of bags, lubricants, tramway material, &c., which are not distinguishable from similar imports used in other industries. The declared value of the sugar exported from Queensland naturally receded with the lessened production, the figures being £681,038, against £863,080 in 1896, and £896,118, £886,834, and £753,983 in the three previous years, respectively.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a Meeting of the Acting Committee held on January 12th a letter was read from Mr. George Levy, Secretary of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, stating that the Council of that body had named a Committee to correspond with the West India Committee. The following resolution was then passed: "That this Committee learns with great satisfaction that a Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society of Jamaica has been named to correspond with the West India Committee.

and that a correspondence be maintained accordingly." Mr. H. A. Nicholls, M.D., C.M.G., and the Honble. J. Freeland Foote have been appointed Honorary Corresponding Secretaries for the Islands of Dominica and Antigua respectively. For the convenience of Members a list of such honorary correspondents is given below:—

Jamaica	George Levy, Esq.
British Guiana	A. Summerson, Esq.
Barbados	Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.
Trinidad	The Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.
Antigua	The Hon. J. Freeland Foote.
Dominica	H. A. Nicholls, Esq., M.D., C.M.G.
St. Kitts	The Hon. E. G. Todd.
St. Vincent.	D. K. Porter, Esq.

On January 5th. Mr. R. Rutherford was appointed a Treasurer of the West India Committee.

MAIL NOTES.

BARBADOS.—The weather to the end of the year was very favourable, good showers having fallen, and the canes in most districts have manifestly improved. Some parishes, such as St. Lucy's and St. Peter's, have not had the desired quantity, but the general prospects have improved.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Sugar-making is now finished on most estates, and little manufacturing will be done till May or June. The weather has continued wet, and in some districts too heavy, whilst in Berbice it has been lighter.

TRINIDAD.—The weather continues showery, which is favourable to the cane and cacao crops.

COCOA.

MESSRS. WILSON, SMITHETT & Co's CIRCULAR,—

The GUAYAQUIL receipts during the first half of January continued in excess of previous years, and amounted to 10,000 quintals against 8,617 quintals in the same period of 1898, 7,360 in 1897, 8,520 in 1896, and 6,100 in 1895. The auctions on Tuesday were of more moderate extent, 4,295 bags being catalogued and a fair proportion, either at or since, has changed hands, prices for the most part remaining steady, but occasionally favouring buyers; privately business is also of fair extent. CEYLON was represented by 432 bags, all of fresh import, which sold as follows:—AGRIE A at 71s. 6d. to 72s., T at 57s.; Yattewatte 1 at 71s. to 71s. 6d., 2 and broken at 56s. to 57s.; Goonambil A at 71s. B at 61s.; Ingurugalla A at 70s. and T at 57s. per cwt. OF OTHER GROWTHS:—300 bags good to fine red TRINIDAD at 72s. to 75s.; 100 bags GRENADA, common to fair at 64s. to 67s., good to fine 68s. to 70s.; 567 bags DOMINICA, fair common to fair fermented at 64s. to 65s. 6d.; 46 bags SURINAM at 70s. 6d.; 140 bags ordinary JEREMIE at 62s.; 100 bags BAHIA at 67s. to 68s.; 1,500 bags AFRICAN, common to good at 65s. to 68s.; 2,000 bags GUAYAQUIL, chiefly Caraquez and Winter Arriba at 69s. to 74s., and Summer Arriba at 79s. to 80s. 6d. per cwt.

Crops of some of the chief producing Countries:—

	1893.	1897.	1896.	1895.
GUAYAQUIL tons	19,110	15,080	15,560	16,360
TRINIDAD "	9,640	9,820	9,765	11,940
GRENADA "	4,200	4,100	4,400	3,660
SURINAM "	2,790	3,580	3,337	4,456

Composition of the LONDON STOCK:—

	1899.	1898.	1897.	1899.	1898.	1897.	
Trinidad bags	18,374	34,879	51,035	Guayaquil bags	30,938	19,110	30,712
Grenada "	13,309	11,391	21,785	Bahia (Brazil) "	3,546	7,432	14,545
Other British Possessions "	4,729	4,748	3,652	African "	9,646	4,409	7,258
Ceylon and Java "	9,918	7,877	5,053	Other Foreign "	8,290	5,152	8,029
Total BRITISH "	46,330	58,895	81,525	Total FOREIGN "	52,420	36,112	60,544

	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
TOTAL STOCK all growths, LONDON bags	98,750	95,007	142,069	146,319
" " " " LIVERPOOL "	863	1,540	4,157	8,013

RUM.

Messrs. E. D. & F. Man: The tone of the proof market is quieter, doubtless owing, to some extent, to the unseasonable weather, but during the past few days considerable sales of Demerara and Berbice have been effected, amounting to some 1,600 puns, at 11½d. to 1s. 1d. per proof gallon, being generally rather easier. The demand for Jamaicas shows no improvement, and sales are quite insignificant. We append the Board of Trade returns for the past year:—

	1898.	1897.	1896.
Landed	5,464,840	4,937,324	5,373,904.
H. C. and Export	4,882,121	4,973,229	4,972,983.
Stock 31st December	7,901,000	8,066,000	8,704,659.

EXPORTS.

	Sugar Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Coffee lbs.	Cocoa lbs.	Asphalte Tons.	Gold oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA, Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1898—	106,070	22,318	—	52,401	—	111,852	19,545	4,800
1897	99,789	21,435	—	95,815	—	122,702	950	6,878

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS TO JAN. 14th, 1899:—19,382 tons against 44,432 in 1898, and 44,262 in 1897.

DELIVERIES TO JAN. 14th, 1899:—19,485 tons against 39,747 in 1898, and 41,308 in 1897.

PRESENT STOCKS:—76,877 tons against 108,427 and 136,282.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

2,780,001 tons against 2,884,322 tons in 1898, and 2,933,552 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88 % (Czarnikow) 9s. 1½d. against 9s. 1½d. to 9s. 2d. in 1898, and 9s. 3d. in 1897.

BEET PROSPECTS.

The struggle for contracting Roots with the farmers has considerably abated, farmers as yet refusing the reduced limits, but an increase in European sowings is nevertheless expected. In France and Austria this may not mean an increase in production, but in other countries it probably would. The landings in America for the week (January 19th) were 13,000 tons, consisting of 5,000 tons Java, 2,000 tons Cuba, 2,000 tons W.I., 4,000 tons Europe, which, with meltings of 27,000 tons, reduces stocks to 99,000 tons. The monthly table shows importations during January-September last of 867,400 tons Cane and 150,300 tons Beet, total 1,018,000 tons, which was 57,000 tons short of consumption. Of Cane Sugar, there will be less from Brazil and the Phillipines, but more Javas, Cubas, &c.—altogether rather more Cane than last year, especially if new Javas are ordered as early. Of Beet, there have arrived since 1st January 18,000 tons, and there are further 50,000 to 70,000 tons contracted to arrive during this and next month, many steamers being delayed by bad weather, some boats reported seven to twelve days overdue. This, in addition to 60,000 tons Java steamers, and other Cane, will keep American Refiners going till Cubas become more plentiful.—Czarnikow's Circular.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). December 28th, 1898: "Light partial showers." January 2nd, 1899: "Rains have continued since last message." January 10th: "Rains have continued since our last message." DEMERARA.—(Per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell and Co.) December 29th, 1898: "Heavy rains generally since last message." January 4th: "Heavy rains continue." (Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) January 3rd, 1899: "Rain continues to fall heavily." January 5th, 1899: (The New Colonial Co.) "over three inches rain Berbice generally." TRINIDAD.—(Per favour of the New Colonial Co.) January 4th, 1899: "Fine with occasional light showers" Jan. 19th, 1899: "Showery and unsettled."

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for one year.

Telegrams :
"CARIB." LONDON.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

February 20th, 1899.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

After Mr. Chamberlain's recent utterance at Birmingham, when he said, "the Bounty System is inconsistent with Free Trade, and it ought to be—I think it must be, I think it will be—soon abolished," it was confidently anticipated that some reference would be made in the Queen's Speech to the Bounty Question, but beyond a sympathetic allusion to the hurricane the speech was silent on this Point. In the Debate on the Address, Lord Stanmore expressed the feeling of bitter disappointment, which, he said, would be felt not in the West Indies only, but in Queensland, Mauritius and India when it was known that Her Majesty's speech was absolutely silent as to the failure of the Brussels Conference, the opening of which had formed so conspicuous a paragraph in last year's speech, and that a similar silence had been observed by his noble friend at the head of the Government as to the intention to take any steps to realise the hopes which the utterances of at least one distinguished member of the Government had encouraged those interested in the sugar industry to entertain.

The disappointment thus entailed was a serious matter. The Agent-General of Queensland, a man who weighs his words and certainly speaks with the fullest knowledge, had recently warned us in a public speech that the apparent indifference of the Government was giving great encouragement to the disloyal faction, who desired to sever all connection with the mother country, and the discontent in the West Indies was more serious than was perhaps supposed. The speech had lamented the recent hurricane in the West Indies, but public opinion there would probably consider that the hesitation of Her Majesty's Government to deal thoroughly with the Bounty Question would inflict more injury on the West Indies than any tornado which had ever raged in the tropics.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK IN THE WEST INDIES.

Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. and Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., M.P., who arrived in Barbados earlier in the day, were entertained at luncheon by the local branch of the West India Committee, on Monday, January 23rd. Besides the guests and Sir Conrad Reeves who presided, there were present His Excellency Sir James Hay, K.C.M.G., Governor; Major-General Fowl-Butler, the Officer Commanding the Forces; Sir George Pile, Prof. D'Albuquerque, Dr. W. K. Chandler, and Messrs. Forster M. Alleyne, Thomas Clarke, J. O. Wright, R. Challenger and some 60 others. A copy of the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter* of Jan. 27th, which contains a full and interesting report of the proceedings, can be seen at this office.

On January 27th, Sir Nevile and Sir Cuthbert attended a specially convened Joint Meeting of the Agricultural Society and of the Chamber of Commerce, His Excellency Sir Hubert Jerningham presiding, and through the courtesy of those Associations, copies of the report of proceedings have been laid on the table.

PARLIAMENT AND THE BOUNTIES.

A small group of Members of Parliament had an informal Conference on Wednesday, January 15th, on the Sugar Bounty Question. It was agreed to summon a General Meeting of the Members who took part in the Deputation which waited on Mr. Balfour as Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs last Session. The Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd, in Committee-room 12, Sir Thomas Sutherland, presiding, and will consider what steps shall be taken, in view of the failure of the Brussels Conference, to secure by practical legislation in the present Session, the abolition or neutralization of the Foreign State Sugar Bounties. The Notice convening the Meeting was signed by the following Members of Parliament—Sir John Lubbock, Bart, Sir Thos. Sutherland, Sir Alfred Hickman, Sir Edward Hill, Sir M. M. Bhowaggee, K.C.I.E., General F. W. Laurie, and Messrs. E. Brodie Hoare, J. M. Denny, J. F. Hogan, W. F. Lawrence, Chas. McArthur, Donald Nicol, M. H. Shaw Stewart, and Louis Sinclair.

THE BELGIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

In the House of Commons on February the 14th, replying to Sir Thomas Sutherland, Mr. Brodrick, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the Belgian Government were still pursuing the negotiations committed to them by the Mandate of the late Conference at Brussels through the diplomatic channel, and that, in the meanwhile, it would be premature for the British Government to take further action in the matter.

THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY ON RUM.

The West India Committee are still in communication with Mr. Chamberlain upon this important matter, and as it is understood that the question will shortly be discussed in Parliament, the following summary of its present position will doubtless be of interest to Members. At present the duty on British Spirits is 10s. 6d. per gallon. The duty on Foreign and British Colonial Spirits imported into the United Kingdom is 10s. 10d. per gallon.

In the House of Commons on April 25th, 1898, The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that the Surtax, an extra duty of 4d., was imposed on Colonial Spirits to countervail the excise disability under which British Distilleries carry on their manufacture.

The producer of Spirits in the West Indies is subject to excise restrictions similar to those imposed on the British Distiller, and, therefore West Indians claim that they should be treated alike with the British Distiller. Foreign Spirits are naturally under different conditions, as the British Government cannot regulate or have knowledge of the excise restrictions and regulations of Foreign Countries, or even of self-governing Colonies.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer in a letter to the Committee on August 5th, 1898, said that he recognized that the Surtax might act in some measure to the disadvantage of the West Indian Colonies—an admission of our case—and that he had therefore agreed that the assistance to be given by the Imperial Government should be on a more liberal scale than that recommended by the Commission, in order that the Colonies might deal with the difficulty themselves; (i.e. by giving a drawback). Now the effect the granting of such drawback would have is obvious. As the Royal Commissioners say, if this advice were followed generally by the Colonies and foreign countries, the inevitable result would be practically to nullify the effects of the whole system; but apart from that it will be remembered that not one the measures of relief agreed to in August last by the House of Commons, applied to British Guiana, Jamaica, or Trinidad, the three principal Rum Manufacturing and Exporting Colonies in the West Indies, moreover, all the money then voted was voted for specific purposes, all of which are entirely unconnected with Rum.

On August 24th, 1898, a letter was addressed to Mr. Chamberlain asking him when British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad might expect such Imperial assistance. Mr. Chamberlain replied that he was unable at that time to give a specific answer to our enquiry. A further letter has now been addressed to him on the subject, based on the following paragraph, from his despatch to Sir Augustus Hemming of November 30th, 1898, in answer to the Memorial from Jamaica praying for the removal of the Surtax (*vide* Circular 10, p. 3):—

“The Imperial duty on spirits, referred to by the memorialists as a protective surtax on Jamaica rum, in favour of spurious imitations distilled in this country and in Germany, cannot operate as a protection to German distillers, as their importations are subject to the same surtax. This matter has long formed the subject of correspondence, still proceeding, between Her Majesty's Government and the West India Committee, and full consideration has been given and will be given to any arguments urged by or on behalf of West Indian producers. But hitherto the objectors have not, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, shown that the surtax does more than balance the special expenses imposed upon British distillers by the regulations of the Board of Inland Revenue. Unless this is the case it cannot operate to protect the British distiller in competition with the West Indies.”

COOLIE IMMIGRATION.

At a Meeting of the Executive Council in Demerara on January 31st, the applications for Immigrants for the season 1899-1900, which numbered 5,900 adults, were considered, and it was decided to sanction the introduction of 5,000.

The Colonial Government has arranged with the executors of the late Mr. James Nourse for the conveyance of Coolie Immigrants to and from India and Demerara for a period of five years at the rate of £10 per statute adult.

BARBADOS CENTRAL FACTORY.

A Conference was held on board Sir Cuthbert Quilter's Yacht "Maria" at Barbados on Jan. 24th, 1899, respecting Central Factories. In addition to Sir Cuthbert Quilter and Sir Nevile Lubbock, the following were present: Sir G. C. Pile, Dr. W. K. Chandler, and Messrs. G. Carrington, G. Laurie Pile, A. Cameron, J. G. Austin, J. P. Mason, S. Browne, J. S. Skeete, and Forster M. Alleyne. It was at once agreed that Central Factories for Barbados would be desirable and that the principle most approved in the island was the Co-operative principle. Sir Nevile Lubbock said that in his opinion a Factory capable of making 5,000 tons of Sugar, with the necessary light railway, locomotives, etc., would cost £130,000. Much surprise was expressed at the largeness of the sum, but Sir Nevile said that he did not think that the total would come out to much less, though the calculations might be subject to revision. No basis of agreement having been arrived at, the Agricultural Society has now appointed a Central Factory Committee (of which most of the local West India Committee are members) to go into the matter before Sir Cuthbert's return to the Island.

THE LAND ACQUISITION ORDINANCE ST. VINCENT.

In accordance with a resolution carried at a meeting of the Acting Committee on January 19th, the following letter was sent to the Secretary of State on January 21st ulto., concerning the Bill which has since been passed by the Legislative Council of St. Vincent for the compulsory acquisition of land in that Island by the Government.

"Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the Bill introduced into the legislature of St. Vincent empowering the Government to take possession of land on giving twenty-one days' notice has just been brought to the notice of the West India Committee.

"With reference thereto I am desired respectfully to make the following remarks. My Committee do not question the right of the Government to take possession of private lands for what is really the public good so long as an equitable valuation is secured to the proprietors.

"The objection my Committee have to urge is, to certain provisions of the Bill. Firstly, the short notice deprives the proprietor (should he be away from the Colony) of the easier method of private bargaining, of proving any special advantages that may be connected with his ownership or of preparing evidence as to value for compensation in the event of compulsory sale, and compels his attorney to act without the sanction and authority of his principal, with whom he could not communicate in the limited time. Secondly, it makes no distinction between uncultivated lands and lands in full cultivation.

"My Committee are of opinion that the acquisition by the Government of cultivated lands by compulsory methods cannot fail to prove detrimental to the best interests of the Colony.

"Trusting, Sir, that you will see your way to having the Bill amended on these two points,

"I have the honour, etc.,

"(Signed) HENRY K. DAVSON,

"Deputy Chairman."

On February 17th, the following reply was received from the Under-Secretary of State:—

"Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st of January, taking exception to the Land Acquisition Ordinance recently enacted in the Colony of St. Vincent on the ground that no distinction is made between cultivated and uncultivated land, and that too short notice of intention to acquire is given.

"I am to state that although a period of 21 days is specified for such notice in the Ordinance, the Governor in Council is empowered to extend the time, and that Mr. Chamberlain does not consider that the powers of compulsory purchase should be limited to uncultivated land, though special circumstances must in each case be shown to justify compulsory appropriation of land in cultivation.

"I am, Sir, etc.,

"(Signed) O. P. Lucas."

THE HURRICANE.

A Parliamentary Paper respecting the recent Hurricane will be issued in the course of the next two or three weeks.

REDUCED TAXATION IN ANTIGUA.

Mr. Chamberlain has promptly acceded to the request of the West India Committee that he would favourably consider the petition recently forwarded to him from Antigua, protesting against the proposal of the Local Government to increase taxation on certain articles of consumption and live stock, and praying for a continuance of the reduction of the Land Tax granted for last year, and the Memorialists will be gratified at the official announcement made to the Committee on February 8th, and communicated by them to the Press, that the Secretary of State has instructed the Governor of the Leeward Islands to procure the repeal of the increased taxes which were recently imposed on food stuffs. Mr. Chamberlain will carefully consider the representations of the Memorialists regarding the other increases of taxation referred to in the Memorial.

TO AVERT THE CLOSING OF CODRINGTON COLLEGE.

The Sub-Committee appointed to inquire into the closing of Codrington College have been unceasing in their efforts to avert such a step being taken. A letter was addressed to the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel, the Trustees of the College, on January 28th, asking them whether they would be prepared to hold to the use of the College any funds which the Committee might collect on its behalf, and on February 2nd the following resolution was adopted by the Society "Agreed most gratefully to accept the proposal of the West India Committee, the Society undertaking to receive and administer the money to be raised for the purpose of keeping Codrington College, Barbados, open, and in the event of a sum of £1,000, from all sources, not being raised by May 1st, 1899, to hold the money at the disposal of the West India Committee." It is estimated that a sum of £1,000 per annum will be required to keep the College going, and an influential Committee is now in course of formation with view to raising an emergency fund of £5,000 for this purpose.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

The West Indian Club which has for it's Vice-Presidents the Earl of Harewood, Lord Stanmore and their Excellencies Sir J. S. Hay, Sir Augustus Hemming, Sir Hubert Jerningham and Sir W. J. Sendall has secured a commodious Club Room at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, which is conveniently situated close to the Temple Station, on the Underground Railway. Arrangements have

been made for a most moderate tariff of charges, and all the Public Rooms of the Hotel, including the Billiard Rooms, are at the disposal of Members. The Club has already, nearly 100 Members, and there is every prospect of its becoming the social head-quarters of West Indians in London. We are asked to state that the subscription for Members in the United Kingdom is 41 1s., and for Members abroad 10 6 per annum, and that applications for Membership should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse: TRINIDAD.—There has been a good demand throughout the last fortnight and prices have advanced 1s. to 2s. per cwt. At the auctions about 2,100 bags changed hands, low middling selling at 71s. to 72s. 6d. per cwt., middling at 73s. to 74s., good middling at 74s. 6d. to 75s. 6d., and fine and superior at 76s. to 80s. Since the auctions the good demand has continued, but there is very little to meet it and business has consequently been restricted.

GRENADA.—Out of a total of 3,600 bags offered 2,800 bags were sold at 68s. to 70s. 6d. for ordinary to good fair, and 71s. to 73s. for middling to fine; subsequently the remainder was disposed of at full to slightly dearer rates. Prices for the fortnight show an irregular advance of 6d. to 1s. 6d. per cwt.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. Man: The proof market is rather firmer, and a considerable business amounting to about 2,100 puns Demerara and Berbice at 1/- to 1/1½ per proof gallon. The curious feature of the market is the narrow range of prices, fine marks being within 1d. per gallon of fair common quality, whereas two years ago the margin was 3d. per proof gallon. There is no fresh development to notice in the Jamaica market, which continues depressed, and sales are consequently very small. We understand that a question will be raised in the House of Commons touching the surtax of 4d. per gallon charged on British Colonial Rum, with the hope that the Government by affording this simple act of justice (so strongly recommended by the West India Commissioners) will materially benefit our long suffering Colonies.

We append the Board of Trade returns:—

	1899.	1898.	1897.
Landed in January ..	524,420	705,256	371,778 gallons.
H.C. & Export ..	438,330	398,927	444,376 "
Stock, 31st ..	7,905,000	8,351,000	8,563,000 "

EXPORTS.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Coffee. lbs.	Cocoa. lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA, Jan. 1st to Feb. 1st, 1898—	15,460	2,632	—	3,888	—	3,769	—	104
.. .. . 1899—	8,873	2,713	—	—	—	4,430	—	1,035
TRINIDAD, Jan. 1st to Feb. 1st, 1898—	50	—	2,400	3,102,830	3,727	—	968,540	542
.. .. . 1899—	414	150	320	2,833,840	2,966	—	793,100	614

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS TO Feb. 11th, 1899:—55,486 tons against 87,759 in 1898, and 78,840 in 1897.
 DELIVERIES TO Feb. 11th, 1899:—68,481 tons against 95,798 in 1898, and 94,356 in 1897.
 PRESENT STOCKS:—63,986 tons against 95,703 and 117,812.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

2,657,736 tons against 2,818,306 tons in 1898, and 3,034,163 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88 % (Czarnikow) 9s. 6¼d. against 9s. 4¼d. in 1898, and 9s. 1½d. in 1897.

MAIL NOTES.

BARBADOS.—3rd February, 1899, Mr. Gill, Sir Thomas Lipton's agent left for Antigua on Monday, February 4th.

The Synod of the Diocese has forwarded a Memorial to the Society for Propagation of the Gospel, praying them to grant £700 per annum for 3 years for the upkeep of Codrington College out of their general fund, as they did after the hurricane of 1780.

The Oil industry is making considerable progress. It is probable that the oil will be largely used with this crop on some estates, for the purpose of spraying it under the furnace on megass, which is only partially dried.

The weather during the past fortnight was all that could be wished, the showers that have fallen have been light, but so frequent that they have kept the canes moist, which have much improved in consequence. It is feared however, that in the North of the Island the long periods of drought sustained at different times must tell upon the crops. The spring of young canes is everywhere excellent.

JAMAICA.—30th January, 1899, Favourable weather is reported from Westmoreland.

TRINIDAD.—2nd February, 1899, The Borough Council of Port of Spain has been abolished and the affairs of the town entrusted to Commissioners appointed by the Government. Fine dry weather seemed to have set in when the mail left and most of the sugar estates have commenced work.

ST. LUCIA.—February 2nd, 1899, Mr. Emmanuel Du Boulay has consented to act as corresponding Secretary to the West India Committee for St. Lucia. Great damage has been suffered to the crops, and in the case of the Cacao crop the damage will take years to repair to say nothing of the wholesale destruction of bearing trees.

ANTIGUA.—"Good showers are reported to have fallen."

BEET PROSPECTS.

Regarding prospects of Beet sowings, Mr. Licht mentions 74 per cent. as possible excess in Europe, but it is of course too early yet to name figures. Efforts seem to be on foot in America as well to extend Beet cultivation, though owing to drought last year's results have been most disappointing. The fresh plantings in Cuba, maturing next year, have been very small, so that a large increase there cannot be expected yet, though Cane Sugar yielding 3½ to 4 tons Sugar per acre is likely to prove a more formidable rival than American Beet yielding less than the German figure of 1½ to 1½ tons Sugar per acre. Of course, for Sugar grown, refined, and distributed in the interior of the States, the rate of carriage from the seaboard is an additional protection and incentive, and if irrigation were possible to correct nature's shortcomings, Europe would have to look some day to her own consumption, and revise her antiquated fiscal systems, in order to take off her excess production. The efforts to abolish bounties are still continued, but if on the one hand the public is told that bounties will and must be abolished soon, whilst planters are assured that they have obtained all they want through American legislation, the abolition this year seems more than uncertain. (*Czarnikow's Circular.*)

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). February 1st: "Light showers, but partial." February 7th: "Light partial showers." DENVER.—(Per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnel and Co.) February 1st: "Weather favourable for cultivation, except at Berbice, where it is dry, with occasional showers, but more would be acceptable." TRINIDAD.—(Per favour of the New Colonial Co.) February 1st: "Fine with occasional light showers." February 13th: "Fine with occasional light showers." "Harvesting going on well."

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

Telegrams :
"CARIB." LONDON.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

March 20th, 1899.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK'S RETURN.

Sir Neville Lubbock and Sir Cuthbert Quilter left Barbados in the R.M.S. "Medway," on Saturday last, and will it is hoped arrive in England on March 29th.

INDIA NEUTRALIZES THE BOUNTIES.

A Government Bill imposing a countervailing duty on bounty-fed sugar imported into India was passed by the Legislative Council, Calcutta, on March 15th. Sir James Westland, the Financial Member of the Viceroy's Council, in introducing the Bill on March the 10th, adduced the strongest proofs that the importation of the bounty-fed article was seriously affecting the Indian producer, and had already led to the closing of numerous refineries. He also showed that the imports of German and Austrian sugar had increased enormously of late years. India, equally with other nations, claimed the right to protect her internal interests. He promised to protect merchants as far as possible from hardship in connection with present shipments and contracts.

THE ANTI-BOUNTY LEAGUE.

At a Meeting of the Anti-Bounty League held on Friday, March 17th, Lord Stanmore presiding, the following resolutions were passed unanimously :—

"That the Anti-Bounty League hereby records its cordial appreciation of the action of Her Majesty's Government in sanctioning the imposition of countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar imported into India, thereby guaranteeing equality of opportunity to Indian sugar growers and refiners in Indian markets against the State-aided competition of foreign bounty-giving countries in accordance with true Free Trade principles.

"Further, that it desires respectfully to point out to Her Majesty's Government, that this action, while directly benefiting India and indirectly Mauritius, must inevitably and rapidly tend to aggravate the present precarious position of the Home Refining Industry and the other sugar producing colonies by limiting the available outlet for the surplus bounty-fed sugar of European countries to the United Kingdom.

"That, in view of the above consideration, this Meeting therefore calls on Her Majesty's Government to take such steps as will effectually secure the same equality of opportunity against foreign bounty-aided competition for all British Sugar producers in all open British markets as has now been secured to Indian producers in Indian markets, thereby also, (as was officially pointed out must be the case by Her Majesty's Representatives at the recent Brussels Conference) 'securing the speedy abolition of the Bounty System.'"

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

The decision of the Indian Government to neutralize the Foreign Bounties has given rise to numerous questions in the House of Commons. On March 10th, Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, in reply to questions, said, that the Bill had been introduced with his approval and assent, an announcement which was received with Ministerial cheers. When asked whether he intended to "submit this change of policy to the House of Commons before it is carried into effect," he said that he had no intention whatever of interfering with the local legislature.

On March 13th, replying to Mr. Herbert Roberts who asked whether he would lay on the table of the House a copy of the Bill—Lord George Hamilton said: "On Tuesday last my right honourable friend, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated on my behalf, in reply to a question, that the responsibility for Indian legislation is thrown firstly upon the Legislative Council and secondly upon the Secretary of State for India on whose advice any Bill may, if he thinks fit, be disallowed, and that to lay a copy of an Indian Bill during its passage through the Council upon the table of this House would involve a transference of responsibility to which I was not prepared to agree. It is hardly necessary for me to add that I am responsible to this House for the advice which I may give in each case and I shall be perfectly ready if this Bill is passed, to lay a copy of it on the table and if necessary to justify the course which I have taken."

PROBABILITY OF A DEBATE.

Mr. MacLean on March 16th asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether a day would be given for the discussion of the Bill before it received the Royal Assent. Mr. Balfour said that he feared that in view of the present condition of public business it would be quite impossible to do so. Mr. MacLean then gave notice that he would raise the question upon the motion for the Easter adjournment. It appears that Mr. MacLean intended to move the adjournment of the House to discuss the matter on Thursday 16th, but a motion already placed on the paper by Sir Howard Vincent, congratulating the Government of India on their action, and expressing a hope that Her Majesty's Government would initiate similar legislation in this Country, having regard to the depressed condition of the West Indies, and injury caused to the refining industry and its allied trades in Great Britain, owing to the operation of the Bounties, was held by the Speaker to block Mr. MacLean's motion.

On March 17th in reply to Sir H. Fowler, Lord G. Hamilton undertook to abstain from publicly expressing approval of the Indian Bill until the question had been discussed in Parliament. He pointed out, however, that Bills that passed the Legislative Council, and received the assent of the Viceroy, became operative and that it was not necessary for the Secretary of State to express approval. The Bill would come into operation on Monday, March 20th.

LORD SELBORNE ON THE WEST INDIES.

The Earl of Selborne read a paper at the Junior Constitutional Club on "the future of our Colonies in the West Indies," on March 16th. In the course of his remarks he said that he could not see that any canon of Free Trade could be construed to forbid the idea of imposing countervailing duties; it was simply a question of policy and expediency. Such duties would, it was said, do the consumers of sugar in England no harm, because the price of sugar would not rise; and the effect they might expect was that capital would flow to the West Indies, and the methods of production there so improve that the West Indies would be able to hold their own at the present prices. But if the present Government were to impose Counter vailing duties the opposition might threaten to remove them on coming into power, and so frighten the capitalist. Countervailing duties could only be imposed if the Government were backed by a sufficient force of public opinion to defy the opposition.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

It is understood that the negotiations for the reopening of the Brussels Conference are entirely at a standstill both at Brussels and Paris.

ST. KITT'S TAXATION.

In the House of Commons on March 16th Sir J. Willox asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was aware that an ordinance had been published imposing on the islands of St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla new taxes, including an income-tax on all incomes from £75 to £150 per annum of 2½ per cent., and over £150 per annum of 3 per cent., also what was called a mercantile and

brewster's licence, costing from 20s. to 25s. per annum, without which no person could sell goods, wares, merchandise, provisions, or any other commodities, and a wheel tax on vehicles; and whether, considering the impoverishment of the colony, an equilibrium between expenditure and revenue could be established by a reduction in the cost of the administration of the Islands.

Mr. Chamberlain replied that he was aware and had approved of the imposition of the taxes referred to, which he considered to be fair and reasonable; on the other hand there had been considerable remission of taxation which bore heavily on the sugar industry. Every effort had been and would be made to reduce the expenditure in those Islands.

THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY ON RUM.

The following letter on the above subject was addressed to the Secretary of State by the Committee on February 6th last:—

" Sir,—On August 24th, 1898, we addressed you on the subject of the Rum Surtax, stating that we had received a communication from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the effect that though not prepared to alter the Surtax, he recognised that it might operate in some measure to the disadvantage of the West Indian Colonies—an admission of our argument—and that he accordingly agreed that the assistance to be given by the Imperial Government should be on a more liberal scale than that recommended by the Commission in order that the Colonies might be able to deal with the difficulty themselves by making allowances on the export of Rum similar to those made in the United Kingdom, and we asked you to inform us when the principal Rum producing and manufacturing Colonies in the West Indies namely, British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad might expect to receive such Imperial assistance; and on August 30th, 1898, you were pleased to reply that the subject of our letter would receive attention but that you were not prepared to give a specific answer at that time.

" In a despatch (extracts from which have appeared in the Press,) dated November 30th, 1898 (No. 377), from yourself to His Excellency Sir Augustus Hemming, K.C.M.G., the Governor of Jamaica, we note that referring to a Memorial received from Jamaica on the subject of the Surtax you state 'The Imperial Duty on Spirits referred to by the Jamaica Memorialists as a protective Surtax on Jamaica Rum in favour of spurious imitations distilled in this country and in Germany cannot operate as a protection to German Distillers as their importations are subject to the same Surtax.' We beg respectfully to point out to you that inasmuch as the British Distiller is allowed 4d. a gallon compensation for the special Excise restrictions to which he is subject, it is clear that if the British Colonial spirit industry, which we maintain is subject to equally strict regulations, is not allowed 4d. a gallon also, it must suffer to the extent of 4d. a gallon as compared with Foreign Spirits, which are subject to no such restrictions, and the British and Foreign Distiller being placed on a level by the imposition of the Surtax, have an advantage of 4d. a gallon as against the Colonial industry.

" The paragraph continues:—'This matter has long formed the subject of correspondence, still proceeding between Her Majesty's Government and the West India Committee and full consideration has been given and will be given to any arguments urged by or on behalf of the West Indian Producers.' My Committee have to thank you, Sir, and Her Majesty's Government for the consideration which has always been given to their representations on questions affecting the welfare of the West Indian Colonies and would again urge their belief that the abolition of the Surtax on Colonial Rum would be of material advantage to the Colonies that manufacture that article in considerable quantities.

" The paragraph concludes:—'But hitherto the objectors have not, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, shown that the Surtax does more than balance the special expenses imposed upon British Distillers by the regulations of the Board of Inland Revenue. Unless this is the case it cannot operate to protect the British Distiller in competition with the West Indies.'

My Committee have already pointed out to you, Sir, that the Excise regulations in the West Indian Colonies are as stringent as those in Great Britain and Her Majesty's Royal Commissioners have endorsed this view with the following remark in their Report:—'The West Indian Colonies have regulations of their own with reference to the distilling of Rum and it may fairly be urged that the distiller of Rum incurs some expense analogous to that incurred in the manufacture of Spirit at home, though it may be either greater or less in amount.' My Committee had hoped, therefore, that Her Majesty's Government would have been able to abolish the Surtax on Colonial Rum, but up to the present time the Surtax has not been abolished, nor have the three principal Rum-producing Colonies as yet received such assistance from the Imperial Government as might enable them to deal with the difficulty themselves.

"I have the honour, etc.,

"(Signed) HENRY K. DAVSON,

"Deputy-Chairman."

A LETTER FROM MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

To the above letter the following reply has been received:—

DOWNING STREET, 11th March.

"Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th ultimo, on the subject of the surtax levied on spirits imported into this country.

"The matter is primarily one for the consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but in order to elucidate it Mr. Chamberlain proposes to procure from the Governors of the West Indian Colonies further particulars than are at present to hand as to the nature of the local excise restrictions.

"In the meantime, he does not offer any comment on your letter beyond stating that the arguments contained in it are not all such as he would with the present information feel able to support.

"I am, etc.,

"C. P. Lucas."

THE ST. VINCENT LAND SETTLEMENT ORDINANCE.

The following further communication on the subject of the above ordinance has been received from the Colonial Office:

"Sir,—With reference to the letter from this Office of the 17th of February, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that Her Majesty has not been advised to exercise her powers of disallowance in respect of the St. Vincent Land Settlement Ordinance of 1899, a copy of which is enclosed together with a copy of the regulations made and allowed under it.

"I am, etc., "(Signed) C. P. Lucas."

From these regulations it would appear that this ordinance has to a certain extent been modified, the Governor in Council being empowered to extend the extremely short notice of 21 days prior to putting the law into motion, moreover, the law will apply to cultivated land only under exceptional circumstances.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

At the next monthly meeting of the Article Club, to be held on April 5th next, at the Trocadero Restaurant, a debate will be held on the "Sugar Bounties," the opener being Sir Horace Tozer, K.C.M.G., the Agent-General for Queensland. The object of the Club, which has for its President, Lord Suffield, is to promote social and business relationship between representative commercial industries.

Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., who was Governor of Trinidad for six years, is to read a paper on that Island at the Royal Colonial Institute on April 11th next.

THE CODRINGTON COLLEGE FUND.

The Fund inaugurated by the West India Committee under the patronage of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Stamford, the Earl of Besborough, the Bishop of Durham, Admiral Sir John Commerell, G.C.B., V.C., Bishop Mitchinson, Dean Kitchin, the late Bishop of Barbados, Canon Tristram, G. W. H. Codrington, and Lt.-Col. A. E. Codrington, is making satisfactory progress and now amounts to £820 Os. 6d. The following is the first list of Subscriptions:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
The Anglican Third Order	100	0	0	Sir C. G. Walpole	5	0	0
The Earl of Stamford	100	0	0	St. Mary's, East Grinstead (offertory)	5	0	0
E. K. W.	100	0	0	Lady S. Young	5	0	0
Sir Wm. R. Anson, Bart.	50	0	0	C. H. Burbidge-Hambly, Esq.	3	0	0
The Directors, The Colonial Bank	50	0	0	Rev. A. J. Druce	2	2	0
Canon Bailey	25	0	0	Miss Martha Ellis	2	2	0
Rev. W. W. Jackson (Rector of Exeter College, Oxon.)	25	0	0	Messrs. Jackson	2	2	0
Rev. Professor Stanton	25	0	0	Colonel Jervoise	2	2	0
Professor Burrows	20	0	0	The Warden of Keeble College, Oxford	2	2	0
General Sir Arthur Freemantle	20	0	0	Miss Lander	2	2	0
A Lady	15	0	0	C. P. Lucas, Esq.	2	2	0
The Direct West India Cable Co.	10	10	0	Mrs. Mends	2	2	0
The New Colonial Co., Ltd.	10	10	0	Miss H. Ruck Keen	2	2	0
H. D. Tatham, Esq.	10	10	0	Mr. Wild	2	0	0
Rev. Cecil Watson	10	10	0	F. Whidborne, Esq.	2	0	0
The Earl of Besborough	10	0	0	Prebendary Coleman	2	0	0
Col. A. E. Codrington	10	0	0	Rev. H. H. Hardy	2	0	0
"M"	10	0	0	Canon J. H. Moore	2	0	0
Two Nieces of the Late Canon Pinder	10	0	0	Mrs. Lucy Parry	1	1	0
R. Hesketh Jones, Esq.	10	0	0	Alfred Allnutt, Esq.	1	1	0
Rev. Henry Russel	10	0	0	Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Wyatt	10	0	0	Rev. R. Armitage	1	1	0
Rev. R. and Mrs. Harvey	8	0	0	Mayson M. Beeton, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Carter Smith	7	0	0	Canon Clayton	1	1	0
Frederick Gill, Esq.	5	5	0	Rev. E. D. Cree	1	1	0
General Gillilan	5	5	0	Rev. H. Farley	1	1	0
Rev. Dr. Atkinson	5	0	0	Lieut.-Genl. Robert W. Lowe	1	1	0
Mrs. Atkinson	5	0	0	Rev. F. B. A. Miller	1	1	0
Mrs. W. F. Bullock	5	0	0	Q. P. Moore, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. C. L. Chamberlayne	5	0	0	Morgan Pearman, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss E. Chapman	5	0	0	Rev. W. C. Plenderleith	1	1	0
James Cropper, Esq.	5	0	0	Rev. Dr. Plummer	1	1	0
The Lord Bishop of Durham	5	0	0	The Lord Bishop of Leicester	1	1	0
Rev. Canon Heygate	5	0	0	Rev. D. Ruddock	1	1	0
H. J. C. Knight, Esq.	5	0	0	Rev. G. L. Winter	1	0	0
W. F. Lawrence, Esq., M.P.	5	0	0	H. F. Luxmoore, Esq.	1	0	0
"In Memoriam"	5	0	0	Rev. Eldon Vaughan Chappell	1	0	0
R. G. C. Mowbray, Esq.	5	0	0	Mr. and Mrs. W. Spencer	1	0	0
Mrs. Seymour	5	0	0	E. L. Vaughan, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Catherine Stone	5	0	0	Mrs. Wigan	0	15	0
Col. C. E. Swaine	5	0	0	Misses Wigan	0	10	6
Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart.	5	0	0	Rev. F. A. Colbeck	0	6	0
				Miss Rosher	0	6	0

Donations are urgently needed and may be sent to Messrs. Drummond's Bank, 49, Charing Cross, Cheques being made payable to "the Trustees of Codrington College or Bearer," and crossed "Messrs. Drummond."

THE DOMINICA MEMORIAL.

The Honorary Secretary of the Committee, through whom the Memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies praying for the establishment of steam communication round the Island of Dominica was forwarded, has, through Dr. H. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., conveyed to the West India Committee "the grateful appreciation of the Memorialists of the interest that Body has taken in the Memorial, and of its endeavours to obtain Mr. Chamberlain's favourable consideration of a matter of so great importance to the future of Dominica."

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse:—TRINIDAD.—There has been a good demand from the trade during the past month resulting in the sale of about 6,000 bags. Prices have on the whole had an upward tendency fine qualities showing the greater improvement, while the middling red qualities barely maintain the advances at the close; generally speaking the market is firm to 6d. dearer, latest quotations being 71s. 6d. to 73s. for low middling, 73s. 6d. to 74s. for middling, 74s. 6d. to 75s. 6d. for good middling, and 76s. to 80s. for fine to superior. Deliveries for Home Consumption and Export from 1st January to 11th March were 11,304 bags against 11,895 bags last year, Landings 10,946 bags against 11,860 bags, and Stocks on the latter date 18,990 bags against 36,403 bags.

GRENADA.—During the last month 9,521 bags have been offered at auction and nearly all sold. The Home Trades have been free buyers and a fair quantity has been taken for Export but there is no quotable change in value, ordinary to good fair still selling at 69s. to 70s. 6d., and middling to fine at 71s. to 73s. per cwt. Deliveries for Home Consumption and Export from 1st January to 11th March were 8,897 bags against 10,479 bags in 1898, Landings 17,423 bags against 19,713 bags, and Stocks 21,473 bags against 22,102 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. Man.—A very firm tone prevails for all proof kinds, with sales of some 600 puns Demerara and Barbice @ 1s. to 1s. 1½d. per proof gallon, being full rates to ½d. advance. The "Titanic" has arrived with 480 puns. The stock of Jamaica in first hands being nearly exhausted, business is unimportant. The statistical position is very favourable, as will be seen by the Board of Trade returns, which we append:—

		1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
Landed	In February	242,447	520,740	788,151	774,837
	2 months ...	765,867	1,225,996	1,159,929	1,540,381
Home Consumption	In February	403,359	333,620	382,230	306,310
	2 months ...	775,656	676,769	780,500	675,656
Export	In February	78,960	63,613	81,261	62,349
	2 months ...	144,993	119,371	127,361	113,018
Stock ...	28th February	7,539,000	8,473,000	8,883,000	2,633,331

EXPORTS.

	Sugar.	Rum.	Coffee.	Cocoa	Asphalte.	Gold.	Co'nuts.	Molasses.
	Tons.	Puns.	lbs.	lbs.	Tons.	oz.		Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA, Jan. 1st to Mar. 2nd, 1898—	22,019	5,963	—	3,888	—	10,931	—	314
" " " 1st 1899—	14,141	3,293	—	—	—	10,373	—	1,425
TRINIDAD, " " " 1898—	30,833	11	2,560	2,211,820	10,519	—	2,211,820	566
" " " 1899—	21,434	406	300	1,509,800	2,466	—	1,509,800	1,014

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS TO March 4th, 1899:—100,063 tons against 128,883 in 1898, and 115,393 in 1897.

DELIVERIES TO March 4th, 1899:—123,716 tons against 140,449 in 1898, and 144,479 in 1897.

PRESENT STOCKS:—53,330 tons against 78,143 and 104,272.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

2,484,109 tons against 2,736,053 tons in 1898, and 2,946,238 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88 % (Czarnikow) 10s. 0d. against 9s. 0d. in 1898 and 9s. 1½d. in 1897.

BEET PROSPECTS.

In consequence of the unsatisfactory climatic conditions in Germany, field work has had to be suspended almost everywhere. A moderate and dry warmth would now be desirable. In Austria the beet contracts are progressing, but there is nothing known about the extent of the cultivation for the coming year. From France it is stated that the recent cold weather has been of great utility for field work. The extent of the cultivation will probably be slightly increased.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). February 23rd: "Light partial showers." March 6th: "Light partial showers." **DEMERARA.**—(Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) February 28th: "Weather favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. John McConnell & Co.) March 3rd: "Weather continues too dry." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. Wm. F. Burnley & Co.) February 28th: "Weather middling." March 2nd: "Weather favourable." March 9th: "Weather middling." March 16th: "Weather middling." (Messrs. C. Tennant & Sons.) March 2nd: "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily." (Per favour of the New Colonial Co.) March 13th: "Harvesting going on well."

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

Any Member who has copies of the West India Committee Circulars New Series, Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, to dispose is requested to kindly forward them to the Secretary, who is anxious to have those numbers, to complete sets.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

Telegrams :
"CARIB." LONDON

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

April 17th, 1899.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26th. at 3 o'clock.

Members and Subscribers who have not already done so, are requested to forward to the Secretary their Subscriptions for the current year at their earliest convenience.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK'S RETURN.

At a meeting of the Acting Committee on April 14th, Mr. Edward G. Barr, in a few well-chosen words welcomed Sir Neville Lubbock on his safe return from the West Indies. He desired, he said, on behalf of the West India Committee to give expression to a cordial welcome home again to their Chairman who they were glad to see had returned in such good health. They had frequently wished Sir Neville good bye on his departure for the Colonies in the ordinary course of business, but on the last occasion he had left solely on a mission for the benefit of the West Indies, and in welcoming him back, he felt that he expressed the general sentiment of the Committee when he said that they all thoroughly appreciated the devotion and ability with which he had conducted the business of the West India Committee for so many years, and he hoped that he might live long to preside over their discussions.

THE BRUSSELS NEGOTIATIONS.

The West India Committee is indebted to Mr. GEORGE MARTINEAU, who attended last year's Brussels Conference in the capacity of Expert Adviser to the British Delegates, for the following interesting summary of various articles which have appeared in the Continental Sugar Journals concerning the prospects of negotiations between the Belgian and French Governments being re-opened.

When the French Government were compelled to reduce their newly created direct bounty, owing to want of funds, there was an opportunity for re-opening negotiations. Again, when the crop of 1897-8 turned out to give a yield of 11.40 per cent. of Sugar, which involves an indirect bounty of more than 60 million francs on the beetroot production, and a total bounty, direct and indirect, of at least 100 millions, it was evident that, sooner or later, the French Government would be compelled to repeat the operation of 1887 and 1890, and reduce the bounty by increasing the *prise en charge* or raising the duty on the *excédants*. This is the more imperative because the present crop promises to give a yield of over 12 per cent., while the *prise en charge* is based on a yield of only 7½ per cent. It is impossible that such a state of things can continue, and therefore it is not surprising to hear the report, started by the *Réforme Economique*, that fresh negotiations are impending. We hear from private sources that the French Government have warned the fabricants to be prepared for a change next year, and that the German Government are sounding their manufacturers as to what, in their opinion, would be the effect on the industry if bounties were reduced and consumption stimulated by a reduction of duty. The German industry is taking precautions against a possible loss of bounty by forming a combination of refiners and producers in order to keep up prices in the home market.

The editor of the *Sucrierie Belge* severely criticises the impolitic attitude of France at the Brussels Conference. He says 'the French manufacturers must know that the bounties they enjoy are the maximum they can ever attain, and that the reduction of these advantages is only a question of time.' France, therefore, made a great mistake in deliberately wrecking the Conference. 'Instead of seeking so easy a triumph, France had the greatest interest in taking an active part in the discussions of the Conference. They had given her a favourable position by making special concessions to her, while all the other countries undertook to completely or almost completely abolish their bounties.' 'We foresaw already during the Brussels Conference what has now taken place, and we gave a friendly warning to our French colleagues. But they turned a deaf ear. . . . Now they begin to find out the erroneous course in which they have been engaged.' The French Sugar organ, the *Sucrierie Indigène*, is even more emphatic. It asked what line France is going to

take now; will she be as impracticable and obstinate as before? 'Since then, and in spite of the obstinacy of the French Delegates, our situation has been modified, and, without having received from others anything in exchange, we have been the first to reduce our export bounties, though nobody asked us to do so. Only recently a demand was made that the *prise en charge* should be increased or the bounty on the excess yield reduced. At this rate we shall be giving more than the Brussels Conference demanded of us. But in return the other countries will maintain their export bounties and other advantages.' The *Sucrerie Indigène* thinks, therefore, that the time has come for a change of attitude and a readiness to examine the proposals of the Conference. The Belgian paper, quoting these passages, concludes that 'it may not yet be too late to arrive at a rational solution which may satisfy all the producing countries of Europe, but without entirely losing sight of the question of cane sugar as they made the mistake of doing last year at Brussels.'

There seems now to be little doubt that the French Minister of Finance seriously contemplated a reduction of bounty. The debate on the Budget of 1899 is, however, now closed, and the French fabricants are safe for another year. They have made a strong protest to the Prime Minister, and demanded a maintenance of the *status quo*. M. Yves Guyot, in the *Siècle*, is very emphatic in his denunciation of the bounty system, which bleeds the French consumer in order to benefit the English, and predicts that bounties rest on too frail a foundation to last much longer.

M. Dureau, Editor of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, begins to regard the matter from the same point of view, when he admits that 'bounties constitute a deplorable method of competition, and that if production goes on developing in all countries they must evidently end by having no further object.' But what will become, he asks, of the beetroot industry when bounties are abolished? The farmers will have to increase their crops and lower their price. 'They can do it, but will they?'

The latest news is from Berlin, where it is reported that the Conference will probably re-assemble this summer and that its labours may, perhaps, not be without result. Mr. Porter, 'Mr. MacKinley's right-hand man,' is quoted as the authority, and he is reported as saying that France will give up her bounties in return for favourable American duties on her wines, silks, and 'confections.'

With reference to the Indian countervailing duty, there seems little doubt that Austria will seriously raise the question of the 'most favoured nation clause.'

COOLIE IMMIGRATION.

Mr. Chamberlain has sanctioned the introduction of 5,000 Coolie Immigrants into British Guiana for the coming season. For convenience of reference the numbers of East Indian Immigrants to that Colony for the past five seasons are appended:—

Season	(1893)					
	(1894)	..	..	..	..	5,932
"	(1894)	..	..	..	..	7,114
"	(1895)	..	..	..	..	2,474
"	(1896)	..	..	..	..	2,494
"	(1897)	..	..	..	..	2,400
"	(1898)	..	..	..	..

The annual list of arrivals and allotments of Indian immigrants in the Colony of British Guiana during the season 1898-99 has just been issued from the Immigration Department. The list shows the number of immigrants applied for and the number actually allotted to each estate. The names of the applicants and the estates are also given. In Demerara applications were received from 27 estates for 2,090, and 1,528 were allotted. Of these 72 went to Mahaica, 549 to the East Coast, 151 to the East Bank, 168 to the West Bank and 317 to the West Coast. Planters in Berbice asked for 1,165 and received 746, of whom 189 went to the Corentyne, 221 to the East Coast, 192 to the Canje, 111 to the East Bank, 45 to the West Bank and 36 to the West Coast. The number was distributed among eleven plantations. Seven estates in Essequibo applied for 305 immigrants, and the Department were able to allot them 186, sending 76 to Leguan, 16 to Wakenaam, and 93 to the Arabian Coast. Altogether 2,399 immigrants were introduced into the Colony, of whom 2,181 were adults (1,499 men and 682 women), 48 minors (32 boys and 16 girls), and 170 infants, (83 boys and 87 girls).

THE IMMIGRATION AGENCIES.

The question of amalgamating the East India Immigration Agencies of Trinidad and British Guiana at Calcutta, when opportunity offers, with a view to effecting economy, has been under the consideration of the British Guiana Planters' Association and the Agricultural Society of Trinidad.

The Immigration Committee of the Legislative Council of Trinidad has passed the following resolutions in regard to this matter.

1.—“That this Committee entirely sympathises with the proposals for the reduction of the expenses of the Immigration Department of this Colony.

2.—“That this Committee agrees in the proposal to amalgamate the Emigration Agencies in Calcutta of the Colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad.”

The British Guiana Planters' Association have now approached the Governor with a request that he will communicate with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, urging the amalgamation of the agencies whenever it can be carried out.

THE INDIAN SUGAR DUTY BILL.

At a recent Meeting of the Legislative Council of Trinidad, Mr. Marryat asked whether the Government was prepared, in view of the action taken by the Legislative Council in Calcutta, to introduce an Ordinance imposing a special duty on goods from all countries granting bounties on the export of sugar. His Excellency the President replied in the negative as he said it would be contrary to Clause xxxiii. of the Royal Instructions of the 1st of October, 1880, but that if the Honourable member wished it the notice of his question would be sent to the Secretary of State.

In the House of Commons on April 11th last, Lord George Hamilton informed Mr. Maclean that the official papers relating to the Indian Sugar Duty Act had reached London by the last mail and had been sent to be printed. Mr. Balfour in reply to a question of Mr. Maclean said that he was afraid it was impossible in the present state of public business for him to give any pledge with regard to a day for the discussion of the Sugar Bounties Question, although he admitted that it was a question of much interest and one, the discussion of which the Government had no reason to fear.

ST. VINCENT TAXATION.

A petition was sent to the Secretary of State from St. Vincent on December 1st, last, praying him in view of the serious loss of property and crops sustained in consequence of the hurricane for some relief from taxation. Mr. Chamberlain has now sent a reply to the Governor of the Windward Islands. The export duties for general revenue have again been remitted for this year and the Immigration Export Duties have been reduced. Mr. Chamberlain has, however, been unable to accede to the request of the Petitioners for the remission of the land tax or of arrears.

QUEENSLAND SUGAR.

The total quantity of Queensland Sugar exported for the season 1898-9 amounts to 153,000 tons. Recent sales in London have been:—

300 tons, No. 6 Dutch Standard, at 9s. per cwt.
800 tons, polarizing about 98, at 10s. 7½d. “tel quel.”
400 tons, basis 96 polarization, at 11s. 6d.

THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY ON RUM.

Under the heading “Hit on Both Sides,” the “Globe” of Thursday, April 13th, comments on the Rum Surtax:—“Not content with allowing the West Indian sugar industry to be ruined, in order that the home confectionery trade may flourish, England marks her cynical contempt for the suffering Colony by the grossest inconsistency. When implored to impose countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugars, the Mother Country sternly refuses on the ground that the remedy would be antagonistic to Free Trade. But when British distillers advance precisely the same demand to raise the price of West Indian spirits, it is granted at once. A countervailing duty of 4d. per gallon is imposed on rum coming from the Colony, on the pretence that the addition is required to balance the excise restrictions existing in England. Even if that were the case, there would be no getting away from the fact that the Government resorts to precisely

the same method of Protection for home distillers that it thrusts aside as impracticable when asked for on behalf of the greatest West Indian industry. As a fact, however, the excise restrictions are not less stringent in the Colony than in Great Britain; that is merely a disingenuous pretext for helping the home distiller to undersell the West Indian. Possibly, there may be some who will regard the additional 4d. per gallon as too trifling to have any appreciable effect. That is by no means the case; it amounts to about 30 per cent. of the intrinsic value, and were it taken off, the West Indian distiller would have his margin for profit increased to that extent. It is a cruel fate that he should be hit by Free Trade on the one cheek and by Protection on the other, in both instances for the exclusive benefit of the Mother Country."

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Sir Cuthbert Quilter and Sir Nevile Lubbock have accepted an invitation to dine with the West Indian Club on their return from the West Indies, at the Grand Hotel, on Tuesday, April 25th, next. The chair will be occupied by Lord Stanmore, Vice-President of the Club. Further particulars can be obtained from A. E. Aspinall, Hon. Secretary, West Indian Club, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street.

THE STATISTICAL ASPECT OF THE SUGAR QUESTION.

The above is the title of a paper to be read by Mr. George Martineau, before the Royal Statistical Society, on Tuesday, April 18th next. A limited number of tickets for this meeting can be obtained at the Office of the West India Committee.

THE CODRINGTON COLLEGE FUND.

The Codrington College fund now amounts to £1,501, a sum which falls far short of the £5,000 which it is ultimately hoped to raise. Meanwhile the appeal of the West India Committee has proved so far successful that the Trustees have decided to keep the College open for at least another year, but it must not be overlooked that the position of Codrington is still extremely precarious, and subscriptions are still urgently needed to tide the College over the present critical period in its career. On April 8th the following letter was received from the Rev. Henry W. Tucker, the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the Trustees of the College.

"MY DEAR SIR,—The success which has attended the efforts of the West India Committee has enabled the Society, to its great relief, to continue Codrington College in full work at least for another year. If you reach even approximately the sum at which you aim, £5,000, I am quite confident that the College will be able to continue its valuable work without any interruption. The Society most gratefully acknowledges the kind efforts of the West India Committee. Yours faithfully, HENRY W. TUCKER, Secretary."

THE SECOND LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mrs. H. S. Pinder...	50	0	0	Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller	3	3	0
Rev. W. F. Stanton	50	0	0	Rev. W. H. David (Collection Kelly College)	2	7	1
Rev. G. P. Haydon	25	0	0	Mrs. Clapcott	2	2	0
Rev. H. A. Daniel	20	0	0	The Rev. Dr. Codrington	2	2	0
Rev. C. Myers	20	0	0	Rev. J. A. Cree	2	2	0
"A. L. W."	20	0	0	Mrs. E. Goolden	2	2	0
The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.	10	10	0	C. W. C. Orman, Esq. (Fellow of All Souls' College)	2	2	0
Arthur Adams, Esq.	10	0	0	J. F. Perry, Esq. (Fellow of All Souls' College)	2	2	0
Rev. H. Brancker	10	0	0	The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby	2	2	0
Mrs. F. Eyra	10	0	0	Miss Margaret Cross	2	0	0
Rev. Canon Hinds Howell	10	0	0	W. P. Eversley, Esq.	2	0	0
F. H. Rivington, Esq.	10	0	0	Mrs. Nicholson	2	0	0
Rev. B. R. Wilson (Oxford House)	10	0	0	Rev. J. Slatter	2	0	0
Miss Whinfield	10	0	0	Hugh F. Currie, Esq. (In Memory of Canon Pindel)	1	1	0
Mrs. J. D. Whitfield	10	0	0	Rev. A. F. Curtis	1	1	0
Henry F. Nicholl, Esq.	5	5	0	Rev. E. L. Elwes	1	1	0
S. J. Wilde, Esq.	5	5	0	Rev. H. A. Holmes	1	1	0
Frank C. Capel, Esq.	5	0	0	Sir C. Hunter	1	1	0
Rev. A. T. Coore	5	0	0	T. Ingram, Esq.	1	1	0
The Lord Bishop of Ely	5	0	0	Rev. J. B. Lancelot	1	1	0
Lady Penrose Fitzgerald (J. E. Codrington)	5	0	0	"R."	1	1	0
The Master of Wellington College	5	0	0	Rev. H. J. Philpotts	1	1	0
The Right Rev. Bishop Mitchinson	5	0	0	Miss Buttanshaw	1	0	0
Mrs. P. F. Murray	5	0	0	Miss Mary Butler	1	0	0
J. Sackville, Esq.	5	0	0	Miss Clarke	1	0	0
Colonel W. Tolson	5	0	0	Miss E. Hinds Clarke	1	0	0
The Rev. Canon Tristram	5	0	0	Miss K. G. Clarke	1	0	0
Misses Toppin	5	0	0	The Warden, St. Columba's College	1	0	0
Rev. C. H. Wilkie	5	0	0	Rev. Lionel R. Majendie	1	0	0
Rev. C. J. Betham	3	3	0				
Rev. H. W. Ingram	3	3	0				
The Lord Knutsford	3	3	0				

Subscriptions may be sent to Messrs. Drummond's Bank, 49, Charing Cross, S.W., or to the Secretary of the West India Committee.

GRENADA.

The Secretary regrets to announce the death in Grenada on the 5th instant, of Mr. James Langdon Kent, in his twenty-first year. According to a telegram received, it appears that Mr. Kent fell from the companion of the R.M.S. Atrato on her last outward voyage, and suffered concussion of the brain, which terminated fatally a day or two after his arrival. The deceased gentleman was a member of the lately established firm of Messrs. Kent and Langdon, in Grenada, in which Island he was deservedly popular; he was the eldest son of Mr. James Kent of Mount Rich, one of the oldest residents, and a landed proprietor in that Colony.

THE STATE OF THE CROPS.

According to Mail advices, Crops in Barbados are disappointing; the weather has continued showery, and the old canes are still very green. The yield is consequently very poor and quite half the Island is failing to make more than one hogshead per acre. It is hoped that this may improve in April when the canes ordinarily yield much better. The new inspector of police is giving special attention towards the detection of the perpetrators of incendiary fires which have been numerous of late. In Trinidad the reaping of the cane crop is progressing rapidly. It seems certain that the crop will be an excellent one for both sugar and cacao. Mr. George Levy, writing from Jamaica, under date 27th March, reports that the weather continues showery, and Agriculture consequently gives promise of fair crops.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse:—TRINIDAD.—There has been a fair demand during the past month, but the tone of the market has not been so strong as before, and prices have given way about 6d. to 1s. per cwt. At the auctions 5,817 bags were offered and about 3,000 sold, latest quotations being 70s. to 72s. for low middling, 72s. 6d. to 73s. for middling, 75s. 6d. to 75s. for good middling, and 75s. 6d. to 79s. for fine to superior. The deliveries of Cocoa for the month were unfavourable, but the falling off is attributable in a great measure to the Easter holidays. The total deliveries from 1st January to 8th April were 14,253 bags against 16,745 last year, landings 15,287 bags against 16,386 bags, and stocks on the 8th April 20,382 bags against 36,079 bags.

GRENADA.—During the month, 9,154 bags have been offered at auction, and about 6,500 sold. The demand has not been so keen as during the previous month, and prices have given way about 1/- per cwt, present quotations being 67/- to 69/6 for ordinary to good fair, and 70/- to 72/- for middling to fine. At the close the tone of the market is rather quiet. Deliveries for the month also show a falling off. The total from 1st January to 8th April being 12,008 bags against 14,682 bags last year; the landings for the same period were 24,222 bags, against 24,292 bags, and Stocks on 8th April 25,161 bags against 22,472 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. Man.—The proof market continues very firm, with an upward tendency, with sales amounting to 860 Puns. @ 1/1 to 1 21/2 per proof gallon, being 1/2d. advance on the commoner kinds to 1d. on fine marks. The statistical position, as will be seen from the Board of Trade Returns given below, is so strong that a further advance may confidently be looked for. Jamaicas are also in better demand, and sales have taken place in the new arrivals at prices equal to the best of last season. It is greatly to be regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has done nothing for the West Indies in the matter of the Surtax on Rum. Can it be wondered at if our Colonists should endeavour to seek under the American Flag that justice which is denied them by the (step)-mother country?

The Board of Trade Returns are appended:—

			1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
Landed	In March ...	...	357,968	210,172	527,944	513,386
	3 months ...	...	1,165,151	1,438,995	1,662,869	2,053,767
Home Consumption	In March ...	...	445,767	401,236	344,434	325,793
	3 months ...	...	1,221,423	1,078,035	1,124,940	1,000,649
Export	In March ..	...	74,419	97,182	127,578	99,385
	3 months ...	...	219,412	216,553	254,939	212,403
Stock ...	31st March	...	7,150,000	8,132,000	8,747,000	9,697,825

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

		Sugar.	Rum.	Coffee.	Cocoa.	Asphalte.	Gold.	Co'nuts.	Molasses
		Tons.	Puns.	lbs.	lbs.	Tons.	oz.		Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA, Jan. 1st to	Mar. 16th, 1898—	27,083	6,411	—	15,408	—	18,841	—	324
"	" 29th, 1899—	15,302	3,662	—	10,544	—	18,793	124	1,779
		Bags & Brs.							
TRINIDAD,	" 1898—	112,343	11	2,890	10,070,970	18,988	—	2,818,120	1,065
"	" 1899—	126,277	430	800	12,769,590	16,072	—	2,627,330	2,170

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to April 8th, 1899:—150,321 tons against 183,550 in 1898, and 159,202 in 1897.
 DELIVERIES to April 8th, 1899:—174,734 tons against 182,413 in 1898, and 205,981 in 1897.
 PRESENT STOCKS:—52,570 tons against 77,918 and 86,596.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

2,388,261 tons against 2,788,592 tons in 1898, and 2,890,463 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88 % (Czarnikow) 10s. 9d. against 8s. 11½d. to 9s. in 1898 and 8s. 8¼d. in 1897.

BEET PROSPECTS.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* states that in France the area in beet cultivation for the coming season will be slightly larger this year, but as yet it is too early to give any figures. In Russia there must be a considerable increase in the sowings in order to supply the numerous new factories. In Germany a diminution of 2-3 % is expected.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). March 22nd: "Bad reaping weather." April 4th: "Slow reaping weather." **DEMERARA.**—(Messrs. John McConnel & Co.) April 6th: "Weather dry and rain much wanted." (Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) April 11th: "Weather very dry." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. Wm. F. Burnley & Co.). March 22nd: "Weather showery and not altogether favourable for reaping operations." March 30th: "Weather favourable." April 6th: "Weather favourable." April 13th: "Weather favourable." (Messrs. C. Tennant & Sons.) March 23rd: "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily." (New Colonial Co.) March 28th: "Fine with occasional light showers. Harvesting going on well." April 11th: idem.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

With this Circular is posted to Members and Subscribers the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1898, which will be laid before the Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee, on Wednesday, April 26th, at 3 p.m.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

The House of Trade Report is appended—

Year	1898	1897	1896
Exports from British Guiana and Trinidad	1,000,000	1,200,000	1,500,000
Imports to British Guiana and Trinidad	800,000	900,000	1,100,000
Balance	200,000	300,000	400,000

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD

Year	1898	1897	1896
Exports from British Guiana and Trinidad	1,000,000	1,200,000	1,500,000
Imports to British Guiana and Trinidad	800,000	900,000	1,100,000
Balance	200,000	300,000	400,000

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 16.

[WITH SUPPLEMENT.]

Telegrams:
"CARIB. LONDON

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

May 15th, 1899.

COUNTERVAILING DUTIES IN INDIA.

The long promised blue book on the subject of the "Countervailing Duties in India" has at last been published, and contains many significant passages. The despatches of Mr. Ozanne, who represented India at the Brussels Conference, constitute the first official admission of the real causes of the failure of the Brussels Conference. On June 18th, 1898, he wrote from Brussels to the Revenue Secretary, India Office:—

"It is certain that the Conference will break up at once, if at the next meeting, fixed for the 24th, the British delegates are not empowered to consent to the insertion in an otherwise satisfactory Convention of a clause binding the States joining in the Convention, either to prohibit the importation of bounty-fed sugar, or to neutralize the bounty by a countervailing duty.

"On the other hand, we have just received an important assurance from the President of the Conference that if England agrees to the penal clause, he will guarantee the accession of Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Holland. It is certain that neither France or Russia could afford to remain outside, and it is probable that they will readily join.

"We have drawn up a paper, in which we endeavour to show reasons why England can hardly decline to accept the solution thus offered. I have no copy.

"We are satisfied that the price of sugar will not rise above the average price of the last decade, if such an international agreement were arrived at. Nothing is more clear than that the price of sugar has been brought down in recent years by increased production rather than by a continuance of the bounties; though, of course, it is true that the increased production was induced in the first instance by the bounties—but the work of bounties is over. Their continuation can only work mischief, and this appears to be the universal feeling.

"The Convention would not tend to cause a fall in production, but on the other hand would favour fair competition between cane and beet sugar, so as to supply fully the world's demand at a low price.

"I need not discuss the fallacies underlying the popular cry of 'cheap sugar,' but there are reasons why cheap sugar is not desirable in India if it is obtained by artificial means. First, refined sugar is not a necessary in India, but, secondly, further cheapening, which must result from failure to secure the desired Convention, will necessarily greatly reduce the profits of cultivation, and the ability of the cultivator to meet canal charges, and ultimately injuriously affect the legitimate return to Government on the capital laid out on irrigation works.

"(1.) India has lost its position as a sugar exporting country.

"(2.) Its refining industry is at the point of extinction; and

"(3.) Its power to continue the cultivation of sugar-cane is seriously threatened.

"The first result was due to the successful cultivation of beet as a sugar-producer, thereby enabling Continental countries to supply their own markets. The second followed the large imports of Mauritius sugar, diverted by the bounty-fed beet from European markets; and the third result arises from the enormous imports of German and Austrian sugar into India.

"If the Conference fails to secure a Convention a war of bounties must follow, sugar will be abnormally lowered in price, and sugar-cane will be driven out of cultivation.

"Germany is specially anxious for the Convention, and if it is arranged, Mauritius and German sugar will compete for the Indian market on equal terms. The desired result will be secured. India will receive from Germany and Mauritius all the sugar it requires at a price which will not be higher than the average price of recent years, and the sugar market will be safeguarded from violent fluctuations and uncertainty.

"The British Government has committed itself to do its utmost to effect the abolition of bounties. It is obvious that a Convention can now be secured with all the European Powers, but an essential feature in the Convention, as a security to the contracting States, is the inclusion of a penal clause. Without such a clause no Convention can ever be arrived at for the suppression of bounties. In fact, any Convention without such a clause, as Lord Lytton said in 1859, would put the parties to the combination in a worse predicament than ever. They would themselves be precluded from fostering their own industry by means of bounties while they would at the same time be at the mercy of the countries which persevered in giving bounties.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S DESPATCH TO THE INDIA OFFICE.

The following despatch from Mr. Chamberlain to the Under Secretary of State for India shows that the initiative of the Indian Act was due as much to the Colonial Office on behalf of Mauritius as to the India Office:—

"Colonial Office, Downing Street,
"7th January, 1899.

"Sir, There are two questions affecting the prosperity of the sugar-growing colonies, on which correspondence has already passed between this Office and the India Office, and which Mr. Chamberlain would ask Lord George Hamilton to bring to the special notice of Lord Curzon of Kedleston, in order that they may receive his attention at the outset of his term of office.

"The first is the subject of coolie emigration. The second is that of bounties and countervailing duties.

"But it seems not improbable that, however well supplied with East Indian labour the sugar planters may be, their industry may be destroyed if the bounty system continues unchecked, and, in the absence of countervailing duties or penal clauses, it is not easy to see from whence the check will come. On this subject Mr. Chamberlain can only express his own personal views as he has already expressed them in the House of Commons. There is, in his opinion, no valid economic argument against countervailing duties, and the question is purely one of policy and of expediency.

"At first sight it would seem that it is obviously the duty of the mother country to take the first step in the matter, and that the other provinces of the Empire should follow the lead of the United Kingdom, but on this point the following considerations arise.

"Till quite lately the one object of the bounty-giving nations has been to secure the sugar market of the United Kingdom itself. Of the sugar-growing British colonies, the West Indies alone have at any time within the last quarter of a century to any appreciable extent supplied the home market. The West Indies alone were therefore directly affected by the bounty system, though that system no doubt damaged the credit of the sugar industry in all parts of the world.

"But, geographically, the natural market for West Indian sugar is not the United Kingdom but the United States, and for the time being a countervailing duty is being levied on bounty-fed sugar by the Government of the United States, so that at the moment West Indian sugar finds its natural price in its natural market, and would not gain directly—though no doubt the indirect gain might be large—by the imposition of a countervailing duty in this country. To any proposal, therefore, to impose such a duty there was, and still is, an obvious rejoinder to be used with effect by those who, on political or other grounds, view with disfavour the case of the sugar producers.

"Meanwhile, of late, bounty-fed sugar has found its way into India, and the Mauritius planters to the full, and to some extent the planters of Province Wellesley, are feeling the result of this State-aided competition in what is to them the natural market, and, as Lord George Hamilton is aware, a numerous signed petition on the subject from Mauritius to the Government of India has already been sent on to the India Office.

"In the case of the United Kingdom it may be argued, and it is argued, that the imposition of a countervailing duty would raise the price of sugar in the interests of a few members of the capitalist class. This argument Mr. Chamberlain does not accept, and, were the West Indian Colonies dependent on the British market, he would be at pains to rebut it on their behalf, but in any case such an argument is obviously inapplicable in regard to the relations of Mauritius and India.

"In this instance the actual workers are East Indians, and a community in which the East Indian element, as already shown, very largely preponderates, and of whose exports sugar represents about 98 per cent., is being brought within measurable distance of ruin by being undersold in India by bounty-fed beet sugar.

"Writing on the 3rd of November last, the Acting Governor of the Straits Settlements observed that:—

"The invasion of the Eastern markets by European sugar sold under cost price threatens to interfere with the best markets for locally grown sugar, and it is very much to be desired in the interest of this Colony and of the Protected Native States, in which considerable capital is being expended in sugar cultivation, that the bounty system should come to an end at an early date."

"That these views are shared in India itself Mr. Chamberlain gathers from the representations which he understands have been made by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

"He does not presume to suggest to the Government of India what course should be taken in the matter, but he would ask that their most earnest attention should be given to it. He has more than once declined to allow Colonial policy on commercial questions to be tied by the policy for the time being of the mother country, and if the Indian Government, in the interests of East Indians, were to see fit to penalise or to countervail bounty-fed sugar, or to give preference to the honestly grown cane sugar of the British Colonies, he would welcome the step as likely to strengthen the opposition to bounties and to hasten the collapse of a mischievous and unsound device for ruining an important British industry.

"He would ask that a copy of this letter may be sent to the Governor-General in Council, with such support as Lord George Hamilton may see fit to give it.

"I am, &c.,

"(Signed) C. P. Lucas.

"The Under Secretary of State for India."

A DAY FOR DEBATE TO BE APPOINTED.

In reply to a request from Sir Henry Fowler and Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman the Government have promised to give a day for a debate on the Indian Countervailing Duties Act.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at Billiter Square Buildings on Wednesday, April 26th, at three o'clock, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding.

The Secretary, having read the notice convening the Meeting,

THE CHAIRMAN said: Before I move that this Report and the Statement of Accounts already submitted to you be adopted, I think it will be as well first to make a few remarks thereupon. This Meeting is the first we have had since our present Secretary was appointed. We propose in the future that we should hold these meetings annually, and that we should prepare a proper and formal statement of accounts to be submitted thereat in a similar manner as has been done at this present meeting, and that they be submitted to the general body of the West India Committee annually about this time each year. I think it will be agreeable to the Committee to know that they will get these accounts in a proper and regular form.

Since our last meeting, we have to regret the loss of two members of our body, Mr. Neilson and Mr. C. Washington Eves, C.M.G., whose tragically sudden death took place since the report was drawn up.

Turning to the events of the year, I think that this report gives a very good summary of what we have been doing, and all I can do is therefore to more or less supplement it in regard to some of the matters with which we have dealt.

The extraordinary event of the past year has, no doubt, been the hurricane in the West Indies. I dare say you all know that, as soon as information reached us of the hurricane by means of a telegram, we lost no time in doing all we could to assist in raising funds to alleviate the immediate distress, and we also took steps to lay before the Colonial Office all the information we had obtained by telegrams and otherwise. I am glad to think that the need of assistance was recognised from the information we gave, and the steps we took. I am afraid from what I saw, during my visit in January last to St. Lucia and St. Vincent, that the injury in those islands was much greater than was supposed at the time. In St. Lucia a large portion of their cocoa was blown down, and it must of course take some time to re-establish that loss.

We have been engaged for many years past upon one or two matters of special importance. The first is of great importance to Demerara and Trinidad, viz., the question of Coolie Immigration. During the last two or three years, Coolie Immigration has been restricted both in Trinidad and British Guiana. In both these places the want of labour has been unusually felt, especially in Trinidad, though it has also been seriously felt in Demerara. If this policy of limitation is continued, the conditions of the labour market will become very serious indeed. We have been for the last two years doing all we can to impress upon Mr. Chamberlain the absolute necessity of restoring the immigration to its former numbers, and I am very glad to say that Mr. Chamberlain has this year agreed to allow 5,000 coolies to be sent to Demerara, and 1,500 to Trinidad. This is in excess of the number they have been receiving during the last two or three years, but to my mind in neither case are the numbers at all sufficient to make up for the diminution which has taken place in the number of coolies during the last three years.

The next point brought before us during the past year is the Bounty question. This question I know you are all interested in, especially since the Conference last year in Brussels. Nothing came of the Conference at the time, but I think the result has at any rate somewhat cleared the way for the future. With regard to the European powers, five of them expressed their willingness to abolish their Bounty, provided the English Government would agree to a convention with a penal clause therein, prohibiting the entry into the dominions of the high contracting Powers of sugar coming from those States which might continue to give a bounty. France did not object to come into such a convention, but when she found out how far England was prepared to go and that it would not quite suit England to accept the penal clause, she at once broke up the Conference on the plea that she would not listen to any discussion whatever with respect to her internal Legislation. However, I think everybody at that Conference was fully convinced that, if England had expressed herself willing to agree to the convention with a penal clause, France would undoubtedly have come in. In fact, it seems to me obvious that there would have been nothing else for her to do; there would have been no use in her giving a Bounty if the only effect of that Bounty was to swell the amount in Her Majesty's Exchequer. It is quite obvious that if the Bounty was taken off sugar when it arrived in this country, it would be no benefit whatever to the French sugar grower; therefore, there could be no possible reason for France to continue the granting of this Bounty. I think this is perfectly obvious to anyone who gives attention to the subject. I think myself that public opinion in this country with regard to the Bounty question has considerably changed, and that our Government at the present moment might be inclined to go further than they would at this time last year. I believe there has been a great advance in public opinion on this question since then. Of course we all know that the Government cannot act exactly as it thinks best without having regard to any consideration of public opinion, and that they must more or less be guided by that opinion. We have received support from a good many Members of Parliament, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude, and in this regard I should mention the services of Colonel Milward, Colonel Denny, Lt.-General Laurie, and especially Mr. W. F. Lawrence, whose assistance has been of most material benefit to us in

this matter, and I am not without hope that if we can put more pressure upon the Government, and particularly if we can get the same Members of Parliament, who supported us last year, to once more urge upon the Government the need of entering into a convention with a penal clause, this Bounty question will be solved. (Hear, hear.)

The next point is the question of the Rum Surtax. As far as I can see, nothing whatever can be said in its favour. As a rule Members of Parliament who have been made acquainted with this state of things express the utmost surprise. They had no conception that there was any difference in duty between British and Colonial Spirits, or even Foreign Spirits. We have been latterly pressing on Her Majesty's Government that inasmuch as we in the West Indies are subject to Excise restrictions equally strict as those imposed on the Home distiller; restrictions, moreover, controlled by the British Government through the Colonial Office, we are entitled to be put on a like footing with the Home distiller, and that if it is fair to allow the Home distiller 4d. per gallon as compensation for those disadvantages, we, also, in the West Indian Colonies should be entitled to a similar 4d. per gallon. So far we have made little impression upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but I think we have made some upon Mr. Chamberlain. Quite recently Mr. Chamberlain has sent out to the West Indian Colonies to ascertain exactly what are the Excise regulations there. I do not see why Mr. Chamberlain should have sent out to make these enquiries if he did not consider the arguments which we have put forward were sound. The inference is that he would not do what he has done if he did not wish to satisfy himself that what we urge is correct. Therefore I think we have made a little impression in that direction, and I hope before another twelve months are passed we shall get something done with regard to this question.

There is another question which I will now refer to, and which is the more necessary since the visit of Sir Cuthbert Quilter and myself to the West Indies. One of our endeavours was to assist some of the small growers who have still got the Muscovado process there. We endeavoured to assist them in bringing a more modern process about, and in the establishment of central factories for the manufacture of sugar. I cannot say so far, we have made much advance, but I do think at any rate that the attention of Proprietors in these Colonies is much more roused than it was previously, and I have great hopes that they will not allow this opportunity to slip by without making an effort to get Central Factories established, because it must be obvious to anybody who knows anything about sugar that the Muscovado process is out of date, and that if anyone wishes to carry on a successful production he must be equipped with the same weapons as his adversaries, who have more modern machinery. I believe everybody here will support me in what I have said, and that this Committee will assist in promoting that object; at any rate, we are all most anxious and willing to do all we can. (Hear, hear.)

I wish to take this opportunity of saying how much I consider the West Indies are indebted to Sir Cuthbert Quilter, who gave up three months of his valuable time in order to make himself thoroughly acquainted with their necessities and their condition. He also went to very considerable expense in chartering a yacht to enable him to visit the different islands, and I can personally testify to the fact that he spared himself neither trouble nor work in order to endeavour to ascertain not only the condition of things existing in the different islands, but also the views of the Governors, the Administrators, and the leading inhabitants. (Hear, hear.) The views of Sir C. Quilter, as one entirely independent, one of very large practical business experience, and also a Member of Parliament, are views which, I think, will be read with great interest in the West Indies.

I think those are all the points I will touch upon now, and I venture to hope that you will think the work of the West India Committee during the past year has been of a useful character. Certainly, without the active efforts of the West India Committee, neither the question of Sugar Bounties, nor that of Rum Surtax, nor the question of Coolie Immigration would have been attended to at all, and I think therefore we have done good work.

I want to say one word about the branches of our Committee, established quite recently in the West Indies. I think we have all felt for a long time past that we could be of much greater service to the West Indies if we were more fully supported there than we have been. (Hear, hear.) I should like

to see Committees established in each island, and that those Committees should make themselves acquainted with regard to public opinion upon all matters which crop up in connection with the islands. If they did this we should be in a better position to communicate the facts, in regard to the public opinion of these islands. I think it would be in their interests to form these Committees and do what I have suggested, and as far as I can judge, I think they are very much disposed to do so. We, members of the Acting Committee, are not paid for our services, but we are doing what we can to bring about a better state of things and promote the general interests of the West Indies, and I think, therefore, in their own interests, they should assist us as much as possible. I therefore, Gentlemen, beg to move that the Report and Statement of Accounts submitted to you be adopted. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard said that he would like to add a few words to what had already been told the Committee, especially after the exertions made by their late Deputy Chairman, Mr. Quintin Hogg, in relation to the Merchandise Marks Act and the Adulteration of Foods Act. Both those Acts safeguarded the buyers of sugar, securing to them the quality for which they asked and he thought that the Committee would do well to bear the two Acts in mind.

Mr. Spencer H. Curtis having seconded the motion, it was put to the meeting that the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1898 be adopted, and there being no dissentients, the motion was declared carried unanimously.

Mr. Edward Kynaston then moved the re-election of the Acting Committee: Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.; Deputy Chairman, Mr. Henry K. Davson; Treasurers, Messrs. Spencer H. Curtis, Colin M. Gillespie, Cyril Gurney, R. Rutherford; and the Committee, Major Trollope, Messrs. E. G. Barr, G. Carrington, A. Crerar, M. Garnett, E. A. De Pass, H. H. Dobree, James Ewing & Co., Frame, Alston and Co., W. Goodwin, H. Hales, Henckell Du Buisson, F. Lubbock, E. L. Marshall, F. McConnell, Edward Packard, A. Park, C. S. Parker, John Price, W. P. B. Shephard, J. D. Taylor, and P. A. Wade. The motion was seconded by Mr. Edward Anderson, and no further names having been proposed, the Acting Committee was unanimously re-elected.

Sir Nevile Lubbock then moved the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:

"That this meeting of West India Planters and Merchants, in view of the fact that no satisfactory issue to the diplomatic negotiations undertaken by the Belgian Government at the adjournment of the recent Brussels Conference has been arrived at, and that the advantages at present enjoyed by the British West Indian Sugar Industry in the United States market are admittedly precarious—and therefore of no avail in restoring thereto the credit and stability essential to its prosperity—urges Her Majesty's Government to adopt the course indicated by the British Delegates as the alternative method of procedure, and enter into a convention for the abolition of bounties with Germany and the other Powers willing to abolish their bounties."

Mr. Goodwin said: I now beg to propose a vote of thanks to Sir Nevile Lubbock for the valuable services he has given in this cause, and the devotion he has shown so as to put the interests of the poor West Indies before the English Government, and to report to Mr. Chamberlain the true state of matters. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard: I beg to second that, for no one knows better than I do, as one of the oldest members of the Committee, how hard the Chairman has worked for the West Indies. I remember his efforts for Barbados in our previous Chairman's time when the local legislature was threatened. And as regards his recent mission, undertaken, I know, only to help the solution of difficulties by central factories, I feel sure that, whatever differences of opinion there may be on details, proprietors like myself over here, as well as the residents in the island, have but one kindly and warm appreciation of the value of our Chairman's efforts. I know what the Chairman has done in the cause, especially with regard to Barbados.

Mr. Goodwin having formally put the motion to the Meeting, it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman (who, on rising, was received with applause) then said: I am very much obliged to you for your vote of thanks. I can assure you that it is my earnest wish to do everything I can to assist the West Indies. My only object is to facilitate their gaining what they desire. I think there has been a misappre-

hension with regard to Sir Cuthbert Quilter and myself. In the first place, what was merely a suggested scheme for consideration and discussion has been taken as a direct proposal by Sir Cuthbert of something he is prepared to carry out. Another misapprehension has arisen in this way: I was asked, in conversation, as to the cost of erecting a factory of 5,000 to 6,000 tons of sugar, with the necessary railways. I explained to the gentlemen who had come on board the yacht, that without data before me I could not of course give anything approaching accurate figures, since it was obviously impossible to estimate what the cost of providing the water supply might be until the position of the factory was ascertained and surveyed, what the expense necessary for the construction of the necessary dwelling houses would be, and lastly what the cost of the railway would be until their distance was known and the description of country through which they would have to pass ascertained, and I explained that without these various details, any estimate could only be looked upon as more or less of a guess. I then expressed an opinion that £130,000 would be a safe figure to take. I am inclined to think that it could be done for something less, but when giving an estimate I like to be on the safe side. But now I find my suggestion has been twisted into forming the basis of a definite proposal. I am glad, therefore, to have this opportunity of publicly clearing up these two misapprehensions. (Hear, hear.)

The proceedings then terminated.

THE HURRICANE FUND.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has forwarded to Alderman Sir Horatio Davies, M.P., the late Lord Mayor, a statement showing the receipts and expenditure on account of contributions made to relieve the distress caused by the hurricane of last September in the West Indies. The receipts were in all £47,695 0s. 3d., viz.: From the Mansion House Fund, £44,679 8s. 3d.; Mauritius, £986; Natal, £960 17s. 3d.; Straits Settlements, £968 15s.; and Lagos, £100. Of this sum £19,507 16s. 1d. was remitted to Barbados, £19,310 8s. 8d. to the Windward Islands and Grenada, £2,000 to St. Lucia, £2,197 7s. 6d. to St. Vincent, £300 to St. Kitts-Nevis, £1,196 18s. 4d. was spent in clothing for the sufferers in St. Vincent, £600 4s. 9d. for those in Barbados, and £2,553 12s. 3d. remains at present in hand. This statement does not include the contributions received from Canada, Trinidad, and some other Colonies which did not pass through the hands of the Crown-Agents for the Colonies.

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE.

The *Sucrerie Indigène* of the 2nd May contains a statement of some importance if well founded. It says: "Abroad, the European countries, producers of sugar, consider the suppression of export bounties an inevitable necessity, because the forced exportations of the excess of production weighs heavily, and uselessly from the point of view of the general body of consumers, upon the finances of these States." After pointing out the relative position of the various countries in this matter, it goes on to state that "To-day we are in presence of a more serious fact. It is said, rightly or wrongly—probably rightly—that the Minister of Finance has two projects, the one consisting of a tax of 40 francs instead of 30 on the *excédants* as is now paid; the other a raising of the *prix en charge* to 8.5 per cent. from 7.75 as it now is. This system, it appears, will be laid before the Conference by the French delegates."

A letter has been received from a Belgian correspondent, in which he says: "As to England, it seems to me that she acted very badly at the Brussels Conference. She only had to speak, even without taking any action, and they would have given her the suppression of the bounties on refined and the reduction of the bounties on raw. Why has she not spoken? I cannot understand it."

MR. RITCHIE ON FOREIGN SUGAR BOUNTIES.

Mr. Ritchie received at the Board of Trade on May 11th a deputation from the British sugar refiners, who desired the Government to re-assemble the Brussels Conference and to agree to a convention with Germany and the other Powers which were willing to abolish their bounties on the security of a penal clause.

Mr. Ritchie, in reply, said that his views were the same now as in 1880, though it might be supposed from some of the publications which had emanated from the Board of Trade that he had come under some more or less malign influence. (Laughter.) Shortly after the report of the Select Committee which had been referred to, Mr. Farrer (now Lord Farrer), in a paper presented to Parliament, said that not only were bounties not injurious to sugar refiners, but that they were advantageous, that they were also in the interests of consumers, and that the successful competition of beet sugar was an advantage to the country. But in 1880, one who was recognized as a very high authority on these subjects—Mr. Gladstone—expressed himself in antagonism to the views held by Mr. Farrer. Mr.

Gladstone said he did not regard with satisfaction a system under which artificial advantage was given in our markets to products of foreign labour. The Government, he said, desired equality, and he did not think any benefit founded on inequality and injustice could bring good even to the consumer. It did not look to the unprejudiced mind as if the bounties had been beneficial to refiners, the reduction in 15 years in sugar refined having amounted to something like 25 per cent.—whilst the population had increased about 15 per cent—and the import of refined sugar having been increased about 80 per cent. No doubt the reduction in price had been very great, but it was a mistake to suppose that that was even chiefly due to the bounties, because there had been natural causes operating to reduce the cost of the raw material of refined sugar, as of other articles. As a convinced free-trader, he said that all the country agreed that it was not to the ultimate benefit of the consumer—and here he relied upon the authority of Mr. Gladstone—that natural production should be destroyed in favour of artificial production. He had seen it stated that the bounties were so worse than protective duties. He said they were absolutely different in principle and in operation. Duties only interfered with the British manufacturer sending goods to the country in which they were imposed, but they left neutral markets and his own home markets free to him, and actually to some extent prevented that country from competing in his home market. If the system were extended to some of our greatest industries, employing hundreds and thousands of people, it would not require much argument to speedily convert the country into a belief that countervailing duties ought to be imposed. He saw no objection to the principle of countervailing duties, provided they were that before putting them on they must be sure that they had the country with them—as was the case in India. The deputation did not ask for countervailing duties, but they made the more moderate proposal that the Brussels Conference should be called together again. That Conference, which was not extinct, had broken up mainly because it seemed impossible to obtain the assent of France to the abolition of the bounties. He would communicate with Lord Salisbury, whose sympathies, he knew, were entirely in the direction he had endeavoured to convey. Lord Salisbury regarded these bounties not as a benefit but as an injury, not as an advantage, but as a disadvantage, and he fully recognized the great desirability of endeavouring to put an end to them. But the Government recognized that it was impossible to arrive at any general conclusion to which the Powers would agree, unless there was a common agreement to insist upon a penal clause directed against countries which continued to give these bounties. With the exception of France, the great majority of the sugar-producing Powers were prepared to compete with one another in the British market, if they could compete upon equal terms. They were heartily sick of these bounties, and would be very glad to get rid of them; but he was perfectly certain they would not agree to anything of that sort, unless they were safeguarded against competition with bounty-fed sugars in the British market, which they naturally prized as being the great market for their produce. (Cheers.)

MR. T. O. EASTON (Liverpool), in thanking Mr. Ritchie, said they were glad that he continued courageously to maintain the views which he had entertained in the past. He learnt from Mr. Ritchie's reply that the attitude of the Government at the Brussels Conference when it re-assembled would be different from what it had hitherto been. For our delegates were not instructed to press or to allow a penal clause, they were merely to find out the feelings of foreign countries, and they had no instructions then with regard to the action they were to take. He understood now that Mr. Ritchie would recommend that our delegates, when the Conference re-assembled, should be fully instructed to recommend the imposition of a penal clause if the other countries required it. That was a matter of great satisfaction to the deputation, who would look forward to the re-assembling of the Brussels Conference with good hopes of its being successful.

The deputation then withdrew.

A BARBADOS RESOLUTION.

The following important resolution was carried unanimously at a large meeting held in the Commercial Hall, Barbados, on Tuesday, April 18th, Mr. J. Gardner Austin presiding:—

"That great dissatisfaction prevails in the Island because no steps are apparently being taken by the Imperial Government towards securing either the abolition or nullification of the sugar bounties, which alone can give the planters a footing on the home market. This is felt all the more keenly now that harvesting is in full progress, and planters find that the damage to the crops by the hurricanes in September last was greatly under-rated. Planters justly claim that their case is similar to that of India, inasmuch as this inaction must lead to the reduction of the area of cane cultivation (for which the imperial expert, Dr. Morris, can suggest no minor industry) the curtailment of the public revenue, and the withdrawal of employment from a large proportion of the population, which will cause great distress."

THE CODRINGTON COLLEGE FUND.

Lack of space compels us to hold over the third list of subscribers which has already appeared in the Press. The Fund now amounts to £1,844 13s. 10d., and it is unnecessary to add that funds are still urgently needed. Subscriptions may be sent to the Secretary, or to Messrs. Drummond's, 49, Charing Cross, W.C.

THE LATE MR. C. WASHINGTON EVES, C.M.G.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. C. Washington Eves, C.M.G., which occurred on April 20th, after a very short illness. Born in London in 1838, Mr. Eves was for many years closely associated with the West Indies. He more particularly identified himself with Jamaica, for which Colony he was Hon. Commissioner at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886. In the following year he attended the Colonial Conference in London as the representative of Jamaica, and in 1891 acted as Chairman of the London Committee of the Exhibition held in that Island. At the Imperial Institute he represented Jamaica, British Honduras, and the Bahamas, and as a member of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute he did much to advance the cause of the West Indies. He was created a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1890 in recognition of his services to Jamaica. Mr. Eves was for many years a member of the West India Committee, by which Association his death will be most keenly felt.

the West Indies also, and he could not help expressing some disappointment that some and indeed many of the representatives of the sugar estates in several islands of the West Indies seemed hardly to have appreciated the efforts that had been made, both by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Colonial Office and humble individuals like himself, to bring before them some practical means by which factories that had produced such desirable results in other parts might be brought home to every island where sugar was produced in any quantity. The New Colonial Company had stood the brunt and heat of the day and had been the fore-runner in the West Indies in the establishment of these factories, and notwithstanding the comparatively low price of sugar during the last two or three years, the results that Company had achieved had satisfied him that their system of central factories might be profitably employed in every island in the West Indies, where a sufficient area of cultivatable land for sugar could be found and where adequate water facilities and financial assistance could be given. There were many minor industries which it would be wrong to pass over without a word. He supposed cocoa would hardly like to hear itself called a minor industry, so successful was it at the present moment. The price was so good, the increase of area was so large, challenging as it did, in several of the islands, sugar itself. All he could say was long might it prosper, long might its price be maintained. But they must not forget that the area under cocoa was weekly, if not daily, increasing and that it took seven years for the cocoa plant to come to maturity, and so if the salvation of the West Indies was to depend upon cocoa, he thought they should want something more before that came to a head. There were other industries which he was glad to say were prospering. But the minor industries and cocoa were all very well and peasant proprietorship, one of the strong points of the Royal Commission, was all very well also, but for the next two or three years at least everything depended on whether the cultivation of sugar could be carried on at a profit in those islands. (Cheers.) It was impossible for any thinking man who went to the West Indies not to see that unless an attempt were made to resuscitate, to maintain, and to invigorate the principal industry, the condition of the people would be such that

STARVATION, INCENDIARISM, AND PERHAPS WORSE THINGS MIGHT HAPPEN.

Some West Indian islands were in a critical state, and it behoved those who looked after their Colonial interests to see that the remedies that were applied were sufficient and prompt, and one of these, and the best of all, was the establishment of central factories in those islands which were most disaffected and where the help was most urgently needed. (Hear, hear.) The condition of the West Indian Islands, though not nearly so bad as he had been led to expect, was in some respects exceedingly serious. Steam communication between this country and the West Indies was susceptible of improvement and inter-communication between the islands was simply a necessity if they were to flourish at all. How on earth could men in these days carry on their business with telegraph rates of 4s. 6d. to 5s. a word. Something might also be done to promote trade between our own Colonies and especially between the West Indies and Canada, for he noticed that lumber and flour in the West Indies largely and almost entirely came from the United States. There was some talk about establishing a line of steamers between the West Indies and America and he hoped it might come off. Bounties he regarded as an abominable impost, but he hardly thought it was necessary at present to go into countervailing duties. Personally, he should prefer the policy that those countries who did not care to maintain bounties should agree to exclude from their markets those who choose to avail themselves of bounties. What was wanted in the West Indies was greater cohesion. The word "federation" was not popular there, but on commercial matters and on other matters affecting the different islands, much

GREATER COHESION WAS DESIRABLE.

Nothing would tend to promote that cohesion more than that Society, which he was delighted to see flourishing, the West India Committee, and if he might be allowed to say so its younger offspring, the West Indian Club, who were entertaining them so handsomely that night. He went out to the West Indies rather filled with the idea which was very prevalent in this country that coolie labour was only a modified form of slavery and ought never to have been adopted except under some exceptional circumstances. He returned with quite the opposite conclusion. (Hear, hear.) He returned with the belief that it was the greatest blessing that had fallen upon the West Indian islands in recent times; it had proved the salvation of some and he believed would prove in the end the salvation of all when sugar factories were properly established. He went out rather a believer in the Parliamentary system; he was brought up with the idea of self-government, which Lord Kimberly had said was such a treasure—such a priceless treasure to our Colonies. Oh! it was a splendid thing, self-government, and a beautiful thing was a parliament, but he came back not at all persuaded that a parliament for a country about the moderate size of a nobleman's estate was quite the best way to use up the energies of the best class of the people and he hoped that in the West Indies the form of Government throughout all the islands would be assimilated. In conclusion, he pleaded for continuity in the policy of the Colonial Office and trusted that the time was coming when more of them in the House of Commons would have the great advantage which he had himself experienced of a personal visit to some of the most interesting dominions of the British Crown. (Cheers.)

SIR NEVILLE LUBROCK congratulated the Chairman, as President of the West Indian Club, and the Honorary Secretary of the Club on the success which had attended it so far. He could not help thinking that the Club was calculated to do much good. He regretted the absence of Dr. Mason who had really started the Club, and to whom all West Indians owed a debt of gratitude. The inhabitants of the different islands did not see nearly so much of one another as it was desirable that they should do. This Club would be the means of allowing them to meet one another and know one another, which was likely to be of great value. What struck him during his recent visit to the West Indies was the very great contrast between the conditions which existed in what he might call the southern group and the position of affairs in the northern group such as Barbados, St. Nevis, and St. Kitts.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION INDISPENSABLE.

What was required to maintain the sugar industry of Trinidad and British Guiana in a flourishing condition was that they should continue to receive the number of coolies which they had been receiving for years past and he thought that then even if bounties should continue they would hold their own. But he was perfectly certain that they would be very prosperous Colonies so far as the sugar was concerned if the bounties were abolished. If coolie immigration had been looked upon simply as a question of philanthropy, as a question of humanitarianism it would be difficult to point to anything which had done so large an amount of good to so large a number of their fellow subjects as that. While he agreed with Sir Outberr Quilter as to the prosperity of the cocoa industry and that it was likely to continue for some little time to come, it was only wise to warn those who were concerned with cocoa that there were such things as rainy days and that those rainy days were apt to come when they least expected them. The northern group Barbados, Antigua, and St. Kitts were entirely dependent upon sugar and their process of manufacture was the old obsolete Muscovado process. For himself he could not conceive that whether bounties were abolished or not that old fashioned Muscovado system could possibly in the long run hold its own against other sugar-producing and competing countries which were equipped with the most modern machinery. His own view of the matter was not altogether shared in these Colonies. The present willingness to assist in getting central factories started in these Colonies, but proprietors of estates in those Colonies ought not to expect everything to be done by the Government, nor ought they to adopt the policy of Mr. Micawber in sitting still and waiting for something to turn up. (Hear, hear and laughter.) Central factories ought to be established there, the proprietors of estates must be up and doing themselves and must take a very much more active part than

they have hitherto done in showing their desire and wish to assist in every way they could in getting such factories established in those islands. He was not sure that what he was saying would be exceedingly palatable to the proprietors connected with these islands, but he should not be a true friend of the West Indies if he did not endeavour to tell what he conceived to be the truth in regard to these islands. Neither Mr. Chamberlain nor the British Parliament in this country, he feared, were not in a position to find the necessary capital, and therefore it must be looked for from outsiders. Outside capitalists would not risk their capital in the West Indies while they had the uncertainty of the sugar bounty question hanging over their heads. He was quite sure that he could satisfy them that their money might be perfectly safe at the present price of sugar embarked in central factories in any part of the West Indies, especially Antigua and St. Kitts. Why should not bounties be abolished? So far as he knew there was no one in this country who had a word to say in their favour.

LORD FARRER TOLD THEM THAT BOUNTIES WERE AN ABOMINATION,

and all present agreed with him. But when they looked across the channel what did they find in Europe? They found five out of the six countries which were now giving bounties—he left out Russia, which did not concern them—were willing—eager to abolish bounties on one condition, namely, that England should join with them in a convention that we should guarantee to them free trade for their sugar in our home markets. (Hear, hear.) The penal clause simply amounted to this: that the English Government was willing to guarantee free trade to those countries who were willing to abolish their bounties. (Hear, hear.) At the present moment it might be said that England and France were the only two countries of Europe who were resisting the abolition of bounties. But we ought not to exonerate France because as far as they all knew, France was perfectly willing to come into such a convention. He had not the slightest doubt in his mind that if their delegates to the Brussels Conference had been authorised by their Government to express agreement with the proposed Brussels Convention, France would have come in. That was the universal opinion in Europe, so that they were brought to this conclusion: that the British Government was the only Government in Europe that was resisting the abolition of bounties and at the same time professing to be doing all that was possible to endeavour to get rid of them. That made their position exceedingly absurd. After referring to the cultivation of cocoa and other industries Sir Neville concluded by expressing his thanks to all in the West Indies with whom he and Sir Cuthbert Quiller came into contact for their great kindness, courtesy and hospitality. (Cheers.)

SIR CAVENTISH BOYLE, K. C. M. G., proposed the "Houses of Parliament," observing that if they could follow in their Colonial legislative assemblies in a very small way, the lines which were set to them and the example set to them by that great institution, the Imperial Parliament, they should do well.

LORD AMTHILL responded for the House of Lords and in an amusing speech interpreted the origin of the expression "Drunk as a Lord;" to be that, in the mind of the public, the prevailing notion was that when a lord did a thing he did it well. He maintained, without fear of contradiction, that the House of Lords did its work well and with as little talking as possible. They would not expect from him any comment or speech in connection with the West Indies because what they wanted in the West Indies was financial assistance, and they knew that was a matter in which the House of Lords could not interfere. (Laughter.)

SIR M. M. BROWNAGREE, K. C. J. E., M. P., replied for the House of Commons and regretted the deplorable ignorance of the House of Commons as to the Colonies of the Empire, whose destinies they nominally held in their hands. Referring to the imposition of countervailing duties in India he remarked that all the labour at present employed in the cultivation of sugar upon three million acres of land in India would be thrown out of employment and India would be in a bankrupt state if the sugar industry were destroyed by the introduction of artificially-aided sugar.

COLONEL VICTOR MILWARD, M. P., also acknowledged the toast and expressed the opinion that the fiscal policy of Great Britain towards the West Indies had been a selfish policy and an intensely selfish policy. For the sake of a farthing a pound in the price of sugar they did not care whether the West Indies went to the dogs or not. They were an effete set of islands; they had ancient methods of manufacturing the sugar and they ought to provide themselves with new and improved methods. It was forgotten entirely that it was impossible that capital should be invested in the West Indies without that confidence which they all desired, and therefore the West Indies must go to the wall. But when it was a matter of rum they said:—

"OH NO, WE CANNOT HAVE YOUR RUM; WE MUST CONSIDER OUR PRODUCERS AT HOME,"

and therefore they kept West Indian rum out of the country by imposing an additional fourpence per gallon upon it. That was to say, when it was a question of sugar the consumer was everything, but when it was a question of rum the producer was everything. It was their duty to prove to the people of the country that they were pursuing a selfish policy, a retrograde policy and a blind policy, and if they desired not only to preserve but to improve and maintain their great Colonies, they must, as the parents of those Colonies, do their duty as parents, and if need be make some sacrifice for the sake of their offspring. (Cheers.)

Mr. HENRY K. DAVSON in proposing the toast of "the Colonial Office" coupled with the name of Sir Edward WINDFIELD, referred to the past and present relationship of the Colonial Office and the Colonies, emphasising the awakened interest which was now being taken in the latter not only by the department itself but through them by the public generally. Speaking of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN he said that the Colonies even under their existing depression from the effects of Foreign Bounties felt that a new era of prosperity was dawning on them by the thoroughness never before witnessed, with which that great Statesman had grappled with their requirements and grievances since he assumed the responsibilities of Colonial Minister. (Hear, hear.)

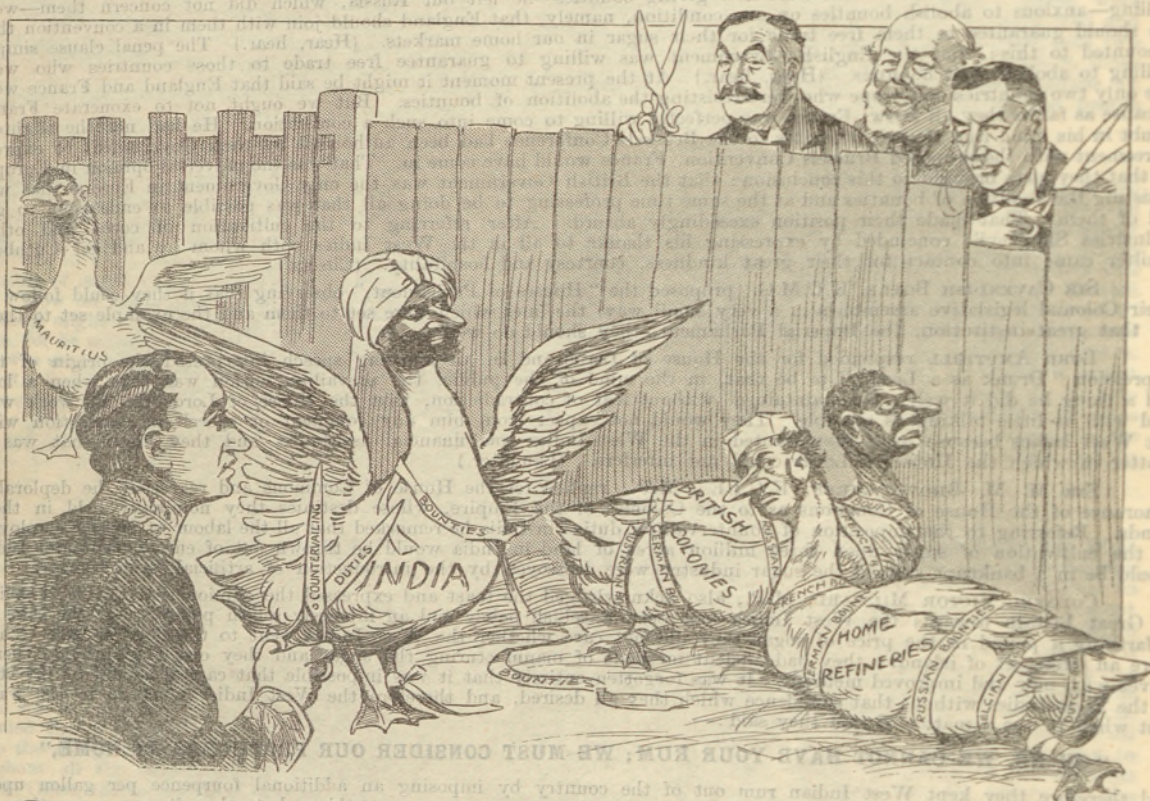
SIR JOHN LURBUCK, BART., M. P., proposed the "West Indian Club." They were sometimes told rather uncharitably that the West Indies were always grumbling. He was not quite sure that it lay in the mouth of any Englishman to complain of other people for grumbling. (Laughter.) The West Indies had not only had to suffer from the depreciation of price which had been common to all agriculturists, but for many years they had had special difficulties of their own to contend with. First they had unfair competition with slave-grown sugar, and when, happily, that came to an end, they found themselves met with an almost more serious difficulty, that of bounty fed sugar. It was very necessary that they should combine together in order to represent their case successfully to the English people, and he thought they had done very wisely in forming the West India Committee, which had done admirable service, and still more recently the West Indian Club, to which they were indebted that evening for its kind hospitality. (Cheers.) THE CHAIRMAN acknowledged the toast on behalf of the Club and the proceedings terminated.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 is. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

INDIA AND THE SUGAR BOUNTIES.



Sauce for the Goose is Sauce for the Gander!

"It may be that this will be regarded as an example of far-reaching significance."—Lord Curzon at Calcutta, March 11th, 1899.

"The Bounty System is inconsistent with Free Trade, and hostile to Free Trade, and it ought to be, I think it must be, I think it will be, soon abolished."—Mr. Chamberlain at Birmingham, January 26th, 1899.

"We ask for the establishment of Free Trade, which is practically destroyed by these Bounties."—Mr. Ritchie in the House of Commons.

The above Cartoon has been issued by the Anti-Bounty League and appears in the current number of the "National Review," which contains an article by Mr. Maysor M. Boston entitled "The Moral of the Indian Countervailing Duties."

ALFRED R. BARTON
 Secretary of the Anti-Bounty League, 21 St. Andrew's Place, London, E.C. 4.
 and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly
 Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 17.

Telegrams :
"CARIB." LONDON.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

June 12th, 1899.

THE INDIAN SUGAR DUTIES DEBATE.

Thursday, June 15th next, is the date which has been fixed for the discussion of the Indian Countervailing Duties Bill in the House of Commons.

SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER'S REPORT.

Sir Cuthbert Quilter's Report to Mr. Chamberlain on his visit to the West Indies has been published for information by the Committee. This Report, copies of which have been posted to Members, extending as it does over 24 pages, forms a worthy record of the efforts which Sir Cuthbert has, in true Imperial spirit, put forward on behalf of the suffering West Indies.

THE IMPROVED STEAMER SERVICES.

It is understood that an official announcement will shortly be made on this point. It seems probable that while arrangements will soon be completed for the fast fruit service between Jamaica and this Country, the other services forecasted by Mr. Chamberlain in August last may be temporarily, though not permanently, abandoned.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Negotiations for a Reciprocity Treaty with the United States are still continuing, though they are at present confined to Barbados, British Guiana and Jamaica. In regard to British Guiana, Her Majesty's Chargè d'Affaires at Washington will be advised by Sir Cavendish Boyle and Mr. J. H. de Jonge, who have left for America for that purpose, while Mr. Gideon, Mr. A. W. Farquharson and Mr. Bell have been sent as delegates from Jamaica.

Any agreement as to reciprocity come to, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Colonial Governments, with whom it will rest to decide whether they are prepared to make good any loss of revenue which it may involve. With regard to Barbados, the United States offer to give a rebate of 12 % on Sugar, Molasses, Fresh Fruit and Asphalt or Manjak, in return for the remission of the duty in Barbados on a large number of American articles of import, and a reduction in the case of others.

THE PROSPECTS OF WEST INDIAN COCOA.

It seems at first sight somewhat difficult to reconcile the fall in value of Trinidad Cocoa with the statistical position in London, as the stocks are more than 10,000 bags below those of last year and yet prices continue to give way. We must go beyond this market to find an explanation, and it is in Trinidad itself we discover the first cause in the keen competition for local buyers to supply early in the season the demand for the United States and France, which, of course, cripples the export demand in this market and practically leaves us entirely dependent on the home trade demand which for Trinidad alone is not an increasing one. As has been pointed out on many occasions, the growth in the consumption of pure manufactured cocoa is against the advance in the use of Trinidad, which, though finer, is less adaptable for the present taste than the milder cocoas from Grenada and St. Thomé. This latter is undoubtedly the most serious opponent of all the West India growths, and the deliveries for home consumption in London and Liverpool of African cocoas to the beginning of June were 42,300 bags, against 16,000 bags in 1898, and 14,100 bags in 1897.

THE BRITISH GUIANA CHEMISTS' ORDINANCE.

On this subject, the following communication was addressed by the Committee to Mr. Chamberlain on May 11th last.

"Sir,

"I have the honour to inform you that the attention of my Committee has been called to Ordinance 3 of 1899, 'to provide for the Examination and Registration of Chemists and Druggists and to

Regulate the Sale of Drugs and Poisons,' which has been passed by the Court of Policy of British Guiana, and has since received the assent of his Excellency the Governor.

"From this Ordinance it would seem that Merchants and Estates' Agents are prohibited from importing or buying from importers in large quantities and retailing to Estates, such Articles as Sulphuric Acid, Oxalic Acid and Caustic Soda, which are largely used in the manufacture of Sugar and Rum: and Hydrochloric Acid, which is extensively used for the purpose of cleaning machinery.

"My Committee desire respectfully to point out to you, Sir, that the necessity of purchasing the above-named articles from Licensed Chemists would entail a heavy expense which Estates could not at the present time afford; moreover, none of the Chemists in British Guiana have facilities for storing and dealing with the large quantities of Sulphuric Acid which are imported for Estates' use.

"I am therefore to request you to be pleased to advise Her Majesty to exercise her powers of disallowance with regard to this Ordinance, or to have these items omitted from its operations.

"I have the honour, etc. (Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman."

To this letter a reply was received from Mr. Chamberlain on May 18th to the effect that the Ordinance had not yet reached the Colonial Office, but that when it did, the representations of the West India Committee would be duly considered.

THE FIBRE INDUSTRY OF THE BAHAMAS.

At the request of the Committee of the West Indian Club, Sir Ambrose Shea, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Bahamas, attended a meeting on June 7th and made an interesting statement as to the progress made in the Bahamas subsequent to inauguration of the Fibre Industry in that Colony. Sir Ambrose referred to the condition of the Colony as exemplified by the Blue Book of 1886, the year before he became Governor, which was one of great discouragement and gave no promise of improvement. Revenue and expenditure were running a close race, the position of the Government was critical and means for its amelioration had to be devised. His attention was one day called to a neglected plant, the Agave Rigida, which, on examination, he found to contain a fibre of a superior kind which he believed might be utilized to great economic advantage. The public did not, however, readily respond to his proposals for the encouragement of a fibre industry, several abortive efforts being pleaded against their feasibility. He, however, persevered, and the industry progressed and won support at home and abroad, £200,000 being invested in the enterprise in three or four years. Progress was delayed by lack of plants and this, unhappily, led to the use of some that were immature. It was in 1894 that the first symptoms of failure exhibited themselves on the Chamberlain Estate. Dr. Morris, of Kew, examined the plantation and found that the cause of trouble was fundamental. The land was ill chosen and the plants used were not of the right sort. The plants were taken from the poles of the matured and dying Agave instead of from the base of the plant, where the suckers commence to appear in the second or third year after planting. This untoward issue caused general regret and retarded the industry. Such mistakes were invariably incidental to new enterprises, but now the real merits of the industry were being demonstrated. Prior to 1898 several small shiploads of fibre went forward and in that year 12% was added to the Colony's exports and within a measurable time it would be the principal export of the Colony. The plant took four years to mature, during which time the cultivation was in the hands of contractors and cost £3 per acre. After this, the cost to produce was about £10 a ton, delivered in New York, while the ruling prices (and he quoted Messrs. Cox & Co's circular) had for the past year been £30 to £35 a ton. Such figures might well inspire a doubt had they not been so unquestionably authenticated. The life of the plants, after maturity, averaged five years. Undulating, rocky land of a soft limestone character was the best suited to the growth of the plant. The fibre was chiefly used in the United States for binder twine for harvesting and the supply had been for many years from Yucatan, whence fibre to the value of £2,000,000 was exported in 1898. Owing to lack of labour the limits of production in that country were now reached. In the Bahamas labour was plentiful. The prospects of the Bahamas now left nothing to be desired. The 1898

imports were the largest there had been for three years. In conclusion, Sir Ambrose said that the fibre industry, in the light of experience now gained, was one of the safest of agricultural pursuits, combining as it did security and profit, and it was needless to say that the Colonies were justly jubilant over their phenomenal prospects. Mr. Henry K. Davson (deputy Chairman of the West India Committee), thanking Sir Ambrose Shea for his interesting statement, said that he might well be proud of the state of prosperity to which he had by his able administration brought the Bahamas.

CODRINGTON COLLEGE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE.

On May 5th, a Conference between the Codrington Sub-Committee and Rev. H. W. Tucker, Secretary of the S.P.G., was held at Westminster, and in accordance with a suggestion then made, the following letter was on May 10th despatched to the Society.

" SIR,

" I am desired by the Codrington Sub-Committee to thank you for so kindly receiving them on Friday, May 5th instant. My Committee were much gratified at learning from you that in consequence of the success of their appeal to the public for funds to avert the closing of Codrington College, no suspension of its work need now be apprehended; but feeling anxious to do all in their power to place the College on such a basis as to render impossible the recurrence of a similar crisis to that through which it has recently been passing, they venture to submit for your consideration the following suggestion. As you are doubtless aware, a scheme has been inaugurated under the auspices of the Colonial Office for the formation of schools for the study of tropical medicine in this Country and those British Colonies which are unfortunately subject to tropical disease.

" My Committee respectfully suggest that negotiations might with advantage be entered into between your Society and the Colonial Office with a view to making Codrington a Centre for the study of such a science. My Committee in no way wish to suggest that the present good work of the College in educating students for the ministry should be curtailed, but feel that, having regard to the wording of the Will of the Founder, which expressly states that the professors and scholars ' shall be obliged to study and practice physics and chirurgery, as well as divinity ' such an expansion of the scope of the College could in no way be considered as contrary to the intentions of the generous Founder. Considerable economies would undoubtedly result from the two-fold use of the College for the study of Divinity and Surgery under the same discipline, and by aid of a Government subsidy or other permanent financial assistance, which would be essential to the success of such a scheme, the closing of Codrington College would be for ever averted.

" I am to ask you kindly to lay the above suggestion before your Council, and if it meets with their approval, to inquire whether they will accept the offer of my Committee to formulate some definite proposal for their consideration, which might be submitted to Her Majesty's Government.

" I have, etc. (Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Hon. Sec., Codrington Sub-Committee.*"

To this letter the following reply was received on May 21st:—

" DEAR MR. ASPINALL,

" My Committee cannot entertain the idea of connecting a School of Tropical Medicine in any way with Codrington College. I shall be happy to give you their reasons if you wish; the difficulties are many and insuperable.—Yours faithfully, HENRY W. TUCKER."

In reply to a request for a statement of the reasons referred to, the following resolutions passed at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel were communicated to the Secretary:—

" 1. The Society holds the Codrington Estates in Barbados under the terms of the Founder's will and in conformity with the same has always provided opportunities for the study of physic and chirurgery as well as Divinity, that by the apparent usefulness of the former to all mankind, they (the Students) may both endear themselves to the people and have the better opportunities of doing good to men's souls, while they are taking care of their bodies.

"2. The Trust Funds are now so limited, that it is with difficulty that the original intentions of the Founder are carried out.

"3. If the Society had any desire to reconstruct the College on a new basis, it has not the power as Trustees to do so.

"4. The accommodation of the College is not too large for the reception of such Students as are contemplated by the Founder's will.

THE CODRINGTON COLLEGE FUND.

This Fund continues to progress satisfactorily, and now amounts to £1,962 10s. 7d. Appended is the third list of subscribers:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Rev. R. C. Dickerson	50	0	0	Rev. T. Yard	2	0	0
Lord Stanmore, G.O.M.G.	20	0	0	Offertory, at St. Andrew, Montpelier, Bristol	1	10	3
Richard Foster, Esq.	20	0	0	Anonymous	1	1	0
Miss S. Day	15	15	0	Miss C. R. Clarke	1	1	0
"A Friend"	10	10	0	Rev. W. H. Danbeny	1	1	0
W. P. Ker, Esq.	10	0	0	Miss F. G. Eversley	1	1	0
Rev. G. H. But.	10	0	0	Rev. Canon Feldeh	1	1	0
Rev. Canon A. G. Livingstone	10	0	0	"M.A. Oxon"	1	1	0
Lady Frederiek Cavendish	10	0	0	Colonel Nourse	1	1	0
The Lord Bishop of Southwell	10	0	0	Rev. J. D. Ridout	1	1	0
Rev. G. Thompson	5	5	0	Rev. Canon Valpy	1	1	0
Rev. Canon Frear	5	5	0	Miss F. D. Wrayt	1	1	0
Septimus Vaughan Morgan, Esq. ..	5	5	0	Mrs. H. Master White (Berkhamsted)	1	0	0
Messrs. J. W. Provit & Co.	5	0	0	"A. G."	1	0	0
Miss Brancker	5	0	0	Mrs. Forster Barrow	1	0	0
Rev. F. G. Cholmondeley	5	0	0	Miss A. Beiley	1	0	0
The Rev. the Dean of Christ Church	5	0	0	Miss Butt	1	0	0
"A Somerset Friend"	5	0	0	Rev. M. Clarkson	1	0	0
Rev. E. Greaves	5	0	0	Mrs. E. Clayton	1	0	0
The Rt. Rev. Bishop Hobhouse	5	0	0	H. M. Firth, Esq.	1	0	0
Rev. W. Hobhouse	5	0	0	Rev. Darby Jeffores	1	0	0
A. Low, Esq.	5	0	0	Mrs. Knight	1	0	0
Rev. Canon Meyrick	5	0	0	Miss Ada Nicol	1	0	0
Rev. Canon H. F. Phillips	5	0	0	Rev. G. P. Whately	1	0	0
Rev. North Pinder	5	0	0	Collected by C. J. Blagg, Esq.:— Edmund Vallack, Esq., £50; Mrs. Bovers, £20;			
"In remembrance of Richard Rawle"	5	0	0	C. J. Blagg, Esq., £12 10s.; A. A. Hunt, Esq., £10 10s.; His Grace the Archbishop of York, £10; "E. G. N.," £10; J. W.			
Rev. Alfred Redifer	5	0	0	Phillips, Esq., £10; The Lord Bishop of Lichfield, £5; "In Memoriam, J. G.," £5;			
Henry Wagner, Esq.	5	0	0	Miss Mather, £5; Mrs. Bruce Ward, £5;			
"A. E. X."	4	0	0	Two Parishioners of Bishop Rawle, £5;			
Dr. Oliver Codrington	3	5	0	F. E. Blagg, Esq., £3 3s.; J. Challinor, Esq., £3 3s.; Rev. E. Phillips, £3 3s.; Mrs.			
"G. B. R."	3	3	0	Blagg, £3; Lieut.-Colonel Fawkes, R.A., £3; C. A. & A. W. Hunt, Esqs., £1 1s.;			
"B. H. L."	2	0	0	Miss E. T. Hunt, £1 1s.	165	11	0
Rev. B. N. Barker	2	2	0	Collected by Mrs. Meyrick:—The Hon. W. P. D. Smith, M.P., £10; Viscountess Hambledon, £5; F. H. Copeman, Esq., £2 10s.; Constance, Marchioness of Lothian, £2; smaller sums, £2 10s. ..	22	0	0
"Costa Rica"	2	2	0				
W. M. Harrison, Esq., Fellow of All Souls College	2	2	0				
H. G. Innes, Esq.	2	2	0				
G. Vaughan Morgan, Esq.	2	2	0				
Mrs. Betterton Ripon	2	2	0				
Miss Morelina Tindal	2	2	0				
C. A. Allington, Esq.	2	0	0				
F. H. E. Cunliffe, Esq.	2	0	0				
His Excellency Sir Ed. Monson, G.C.B. ..	2	0	0				
"A. H. L."	2	0	0				

We again take the opportunity of stating that subscriptions which are urgently needed may be sent to Messrs. Drummonds' Bank, 49, Charing Cross, London.

SUGAR BEET IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Report of the Sugar Beet Committee of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, which has now been issued is of a convincing nature. The Committee have now had before them the tabulated Results of the Experiments in the growth of Sugar Beet during the season of 1898. These Results are based upon Returns collected from 87 Experimenters in different parts of Great Britain, all of whom grew Sugar Beet to the extent of at least a quarter of an acre. Without giving all the details, it may be stated that the experiments indicate that with cultivation similar to that of Mangels, and approximately at the same cost, satisfactory results were obtained last year as to the yield and analytical value of Sugar Beet grown in this country. According to the Returns received, the average yield of the Beetroot was 17 tons per acre, which compares favourably with that of the Continent. The same applies to the value of the roots for the purpose of sugar manufacture, as indicated by the chemical analyses. Taking the average of these analyses, it

appears that the quantity of sugar in 100 parts of the juice was 15.73; the quotient of purity, 85.16; and the quantity of sugar in 100 parts of the roots, 14.54.

It should be noted that the season of 1898 was of an exceptional character, and probably favourable to the growth of Sugar Beet. Very cold weather was experienced during May and June, but during the important months of July and August the rainfall of the kingdom was considerably less and the period of bright sunshine was more than the average. The yield of Mangels, according to the official statistics, was nearly a third of a ton per acre over the average.

The facts obtained by the Committee are sufficient to warrant the belief that in favourable districts Sugar Beet can be produced equal in quality and in larger quantities per acre than on the Continent of Europe. This being the case, the introduction into Great Britain of the Beet Sugar industry depends upon the action of Parliament in relation to the Bounty System. It is evident, however, that the results of one year's experiments cannot be taken as a guide to the possibilities of a successful culture of Sugar Beet on a general scale throughout the country. For this reason it is desirable that field experiments upon plots of not less than a quarter of an acre should be undertaken in different localities under competent scientific direction, and extending over a series of years.

PUBLIC MEETING IN GLASGOW.

An important public meeting was held in the Hall of the Merchant's House, in Glasgow, on Thursday, June 8th last, to protest against the Foreign State Bounties, at which the following resolutions were passed unanimously. Proposed by Mr. W. F. G. Anderson, and seconded by Mr. G. Handasyde Dick and Mr. Johnstone, Cornfactor, it was resolved:—

"1. That this meeting of merchants, manufacturers, shipowners, and others interested in the trade of Glasgow and the West of Scotland regards with apprehension and alarm the serious injury to the interests of Great Britain and her colonies and dependencies arising from the continuance and threatened extension of the payment of bounties by foreign States with a view to their own advantage."

Proposed by Mr. Robert Kerr, sugar refiner, Greenock, Mr. John Laidlaw, and Mr. Daniel Shields, coalmaster, it was resolved:—

"2. That in the interests of British sugar-producing colonies, the British sugar-refining industry, and inter-related trades, this meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to take immediate and effective steps by prohibition, countervailing duties, or such other means as in their wisdom may seem best to secure the abolition of foreign export bounties on sugar imported into the United Kingdom."

THE HURRICANE LOAN.

In accordance with a Resolution passed at a meeting on May 11th the following letter was despatched to Mr. Chamberlain next day, on the subject of the Barbados Hurricane Loan Bill:—

"SIR,—I am desired by my Committee, more especially at the instance of those Members who are interested in Barbados, to refer to certain facts which we believe will quite remove from your mind the impression which seems to underlie the cablegram from you to the Governor of Barbados, dated on or about the 19th of April.

"This cablegram asks for a unanimous vote of the local legislature that the Hurricane Loan is gratefully accepted. We have reason to believe from advices by last mail that your wishes were about to be readily complied with. But we wish for the purpose of removing the impression on your mind to which we have alluded, to point out that the division of opinion and votes in the local legislature arose out of the apprehensions on the part of many Members lest the Hurricane Loan Act should come into conflict with and neutralize the beneficial working of the Agricultural Aids Act (1897).

"Under this last Act some £200,000 is yearly borrowed on security of the growing crops. When, therefore, the Local Bank intimated that advances under the Agricultural Aids Act would not be made to estates availing themselves of the Hurricane Loan Act these apprehensions became acute, it was feared, as was stated by the Barbados Advocate, that there would be considerable diffidence in closing that credit [£200,000] in order to open one a fourth of the size. This Committee offer no opinion on the alleged conflict between the above two Acts. A short Act was, however, subsequently passed throwing any deficit in the security under the Agricultural Aids Act occasioned by the priority of the Hurricane Loan Act on to the land itself of the borrowing plantation.

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to June 3rd, 1899 : 255,000 tons against 299,437 tons in 1898, and 267,042 tons in 1897.
 DELIVERIES " " 272,231 " " 306,173 " " " 309,143 " "
 PRESENT STOCKS :— 59,573 tons against 80,313 tons and 90,357. " " "

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

1,972,667 tons against 2,250,101 tons in 1898, and 2,488,507 in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88% (Czarnikow) 11/3½ against 9/9½ in 1898 and, 8/8½ in 1897.

ESTIMATE OF THE PRINCIPAL CANE CROP EXPORTS.

(J. W. DE SILVA & Co.'s MONTHLY REPORT, 8TH JUNE, 1899.)

	1893-99.	1897-98.
Cuba	Tons *260,000	*258,000
Port Rico	50,000	54,000
Trinidad	45,000	52,000
Barbados	50,000	48,000
Jamaica	25,000	30,000
Antigua and St. Kitt's	20,000	25,000
Martinique	30,000	35,000
Guadeloupe	35,000	40,000
Demerara	100,000	106,000
Reunion	45,000	45,000
Mauritius	175,000	120,000
Java	650,000	541,000
British India	10,000	20,000
Brazils	100,000	175,000
Manila, Cebu & Iloilo	100,000	177,000
United States	270,000	351,000
Peru	65,000	50,000
Egypt	70,000	51,000
Sandwich Islands	225,000	205,000
Total of CANE	2,325,000	2,383,000
" BEET	4,910,000	4,831,000
CANE and BEET	7,235,000	7,214,000

*Crop available for export in each season.

BEET SOWINGS.

According to the L'Association International de Statistique Sucriere the area sown this year with beet in Europe is 7 per cent. more than last year, and 10¼ per cent. more than 1897, made up as follows :—

	1899.	1898.
France	255,542	238,910
Germany	426,846	426,641
Austria-Hungary	322,200	310,100
Belgium	58,136	53,455
Holland	46,900	44,560
Russia	510,494	446,448
Sweden	26,418	23,917
Other Countries	86,000	30,000
Total hectares	1,682,536	1,573,031

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). May 15th, 1899: "Rain much wanted, crops suffering." May 30th: idem. **DEMERARA.**—(Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) May 25th, 1899: "Weather very dry, cultivation suffering." June 2nd: "A few light showers have fallen, but rain is much wanted." June 7th: "Moderate rains generally since last message." (Messrs. John McConnel & Co.). May 17th, 1899: "The drought is getting serious." June 5th: "Some acceptable rains have fallen, except in Berbice, where there has been little or none." June 8th: "Berbice, some showers have fallen, but rain much wanted." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. Wm. F. Burnley & Co.). May 25th, 1899: "Weather too dry." June 2nd: idem.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 is. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

Jamaica Sugar Bounties Petition.

Appended is a reduced facsimile of a petition from the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants Exchange, to the "Right Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons and Honourable Members thereof in Parliament assembled," presented by Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., on Friday, June 2nd:—

The Humble Petition of the Council of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants Exchange

Sheweth:

1. That the disappointing results of the late Brussels Conference which had raised the hopes of the West India Colonies as also those of all cane sugar producing British possessions have inflicted serious injury on all these Colonies, engendering at the same time a feeling of despair throughout the West India Colonies

2. That such failure it was made evident arose from the continual and persistent refusal of the French Government to abolish the Bounties whilst the Governments of Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland and Sweden, it was officially stated, were quite willing to do so.

3. That it is to be deeply regretted that an active, resolute policy had not on the occasion of the conference been adopted by Her Majesty's Delegates instead of the procrastinating policy which then prevailed under the instructions of the Government to those Delegates to which doubtless in a great measure is to be attributed the failure of the Conference

4. That your Petitioners would respectfully urge upon Her Majesty's Government— as no satisfactory issues to the negotiations undertaken at the Brussels Conference were arrived at— to adopt the only remaining alternative, that of entering into a convention with the Governments which have expressed themselves willing to abolish the Sugar Bounties given by them respectively.

5. That your Petitioners would respectfully solicit that your Honorable House may be pleased so to direct your efforts, as to induce Her Majesty's Government promptly to enter into such arrangements with the assenting Governments as will ensure the abolition of the Bounties on their part and on the future prohibiting all bounty paid sugar from entering the United Kingdom or any or any possession of Her Gracious Majesty

6. That the Governments of the East Indies and of the United States having imposed countervailing duties your Petitioners would express the earnest hope, that Her Majesty's Government will no longer delay similar action and thus impart renewed vigor to the sugar industry of the West India Cane producing Colonies, the sufferings of which, have been prolonged and intensely accelerated to permanent ruin, by the hitherto support given to those Countries in which Beet Sugar Bounties exist

And as in duty bound, your Petitioners will ever pray

Kingston Jamaica,
25th April 1874

Charles J. Ward
President

André Barthe
Senior Vice President

In behalf of the Council

ALGERNON F. ASPINALL, Secretary

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 18.

Telegrams:
"CARIB." LONDON.

Telephone:
"4356 AVENUE."

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

July 10th, 1899.

THE INDIAN SUGAR DUTIES DEBATE.

The House of Commons on June 15th rejected Sir Henry Fowler's motion for an address praying Her Majesty to disallow the Indian Tariff Act which imposes countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar by the substantial majority of 293 to 152 or nearly 2 to 1, a majority, as the *Times* points out, larger than the Government can command on a strictly party vote. From the West Indian standpoint the most satisfactory feature of the debate is that the division was directly taken on the issue, as Mr. Chamberlain stated, whether or not there was such an overwhelming, overmastering principle, either in connection with Free Trade or anything else as to put countervailing duties out of Court, and prevent their consideration on their merits. It is hoped that the satisfactory result of this Debate will be followed by a Deputation of Members of Parliament of both Houses to Lord Salisbury to urge the Government to take steps to re-assemble the Brussels Conference, at which the British delegates may receive full powers to enter into a convention with those Powers willing to abolish their bounties, such convention containing a penal clause prohibiting the entry of bounty-fed sugar into the territories of the high contracting Powers. Lord Stanmore proposes, at an early date, to move for any correspondence which may have taken place with Foreign Powers since the separation of the Sugar Bounties Conference at Brussels with a view to the resumption of its sittings, and to call the attention of the House of Lords to the effect on the operation of those bounties of recent legislation in India.

THE ANTI-BOUNTY LEAGUE.

At a Meeting held on June 28th ult., Mr. Edwin Tate presiding, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Abram Lyle, and seconded by Major Trollope, was carried unanimously:—

"That this Meeting of the Anti-Bounty League desires to record on behalf of those interested in the Sugar Industries of all parts of the British Empire its cordial appreciation of the prompt and timely measure by which free trade has been secured to the Sugar producers of India and the Mauritius in Indian Markets and, in view of the overwhelming majority by which this policy was approved by the House of Commons on the 15th inst., further expresses the confident hope that speedy and effective steps will now be taken by Her Majesty's Government to secure similar free trade in Sugar in all the open markets of the Empire on the lines indicated in the Resolutions recently forwarded to the Government by the Chambers of Commerce of London, Liverpool and Glasgow."

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE BOUNTIES.

The trend of public opinion on the Sugar Bounties question is evinced by the following resolutions of the London and Liverpool Chambers of Commerce. At the London Chamber on June 12th, proposed by Sir Thomas Sutherland, seconded by Mr. J. Rogers, and supported by Mr. Stanley Machin (Chairman of the Bakery and Confectionery trades section) it was resolved:—

"That this Chamber, having regard to its resolution of February 4, 1898,* thinks the time has fully arrived for a settlement of the Sugar Bounty Question, and requests Her Majesty's Government to enter as soon as practicable into a convention with Austria, Germany and other Powers who have expressed their willingness to abolish bounties, such convention to contain a penal clause prohibiting the entry of bounty-fed sugar into the territories of the contracting Powers."

*RESOLUTION OF FEB. 4th, 1898.—"That in the opinion of this Meeting Foreign State Bounties which 'protect' foreign grown and foreign refined Sugar in British Markets to the prejudice of British Home and Colonial industries are a violation of the true principles of Free Trade, and that their abolition is called for in the true interests of British Commerce."

At Liverpool, on June 14th, the resolution of the Chamber was proposed by Mr. Charles S. Parker, seconded by Mr. Hemelryk and passed unanimously:—

“(1) That this Chamber, believing the foreign bounty system to be contrary to the principle of free trade, and recognising the serious consequences which would be entailed upon our sugar industries by further delay in dealing with the question, hereby supports the memorial of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce to the Prime Minister, dated 24th March, 1899, and urges Her Majesty's Government to take immediate and effective steps to secure the abolition of foreign State bounties on sugar, in order to secure to our home and colonial industries the possibility of free competition in British markets, of which they have so long been unjustly deprived by the operation of those bounties; and (2) that copies of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, &c.”

THE ARCHBISHOP ON THE SITUATION.

At the Banquet given by the Lord Mayor to the Archbishops and the Bishops at the Mansion House on July 5th last, the Archbishop of the West Indies proposing the health of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress said that about five or six weeks ago, his official duties led him to visit two of the West India islands, which last year suffered from the extreme calamity of a violent hurricane, and which afterwards, and consequently, benefited so largely through the benevolence of the City of London. He had spent the last 36 years of his life in the West Indies, in the welfare of which his life was bound up. He had been asked several times—he had been asked that day—Is it true that the West Indies are disloyal; is it true that the island of Jamaica desires annexation to the United States? He might venture to say, knowing most of the islands, that the Queen had no more loyal subjects in any part of the world than she had in the West Indies in general and in Jamaica in particular. (Cheers.) He desired, however, to mention one point. When they were in the position, by artificial arrangements, which the public authority of this country did nothing to remedy, of having their main industry squeezed out, and when they knew that their attachment to any other Government, or their being placed under particularly the United States of America, would be the immediate opening for developments that would restore their prosperity, it would be recognized that a great strain was put on the loyalty of the people. They deplored that this question should for one moment be thought a party, a political question. It was a question which affected the life of whole communities, and they looked forward to something like justice being done to them in this matter. (Cheers.)

THE IMPROVED STEAMER SERVICES.

As anticipated in our last Circular, the official announcement regarding the improved steamer services in the West Indies has now been made in the form of a letter from Mr. Chamberlain to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE on July 1st as follows:—

SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary CHAMBERLAIN to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th of June enquiring whether arrangements for improved steamer services in the West Indies are complete, and asking for particulars of the services contemplated.

2. I am to inform you that a contract has now been signed with the Jamaica Fruit and Produce Association for a direct fruit and passenger service between Jamaica and the United Kingdom to commence in May, 1900. The contract is for a period of five years, and the steamers will run fortnightly at an average speed of fifteen knots between Kingston and Port Antonio and Southampton. The steamers will be fitted for the conveyance of fruit, and will have storage for at least 20,000 bunches of bananas, they will also possess accommodation for 25 first-class and 12 second-class passengers.

3. The contractors bind themselves *inter alia* to employ at least six agents in Jamaica in developing the fruit industry, to improve the wharf accommodation at Kingston and other ports, and to build one or more hotels in the island.

4. The subsidy payable is £10,000 per annum, of which half will be contributed by the Imperial Government, to be increased to £12,000 if more passenger accommodation is required.

5. As regards improved interinsular services and an improved Canadian service, a contract will, it is hoped, shortly be concluded with the aid of an Imperial subsidy between the Dominion Government and Messrs. Pickford and Black, which, it is hoped, will effect both objects.

6. The contract is for a period of five years, the service is to begin in July, 1900, and the contractors will bind themselves to maintain a fortnightly service from Halifax and St. John's alternately to Trinidad and British Guiana at an average rate of ten knots per hour.

7. The steamers will proceed alternately, (1) by way of Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, Saint Vincent, Grenada, Tobago to Trinidad, and (2) by way of Bermuda, St. Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad to British Guiana.

8. No arrangements have, at present, been made for the remaining service recommended by the West India Royal Commission, viz :—a special fruit Service between Dominica, and Saint Vincent, and the United States of America or Canada.—I am, yours &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

We are informed by Captain Ronald Lamont the Managing Director of the JAMAICA PRODUCE AND TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION, LIMITED, whose office is at 53, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, that four steamers are now under construction with Clyde & East Coast Builders for the service between Jamaica and Southampton. They will touch at the Island of Inagua on the outward and homeward voyages in connection with a service which the Association intends to start between that Island and Nassau in the Bahamas. The Association will, we understand, buy the fruit and their steamers will collect it from places arranged for between Lucea Harbour, Jamaica, along the north side eastwards as far as Kingston. The capital of the Association is stated to be £320,000.

PHILADELPHIA TO THE WEST INDIES.

The *Iron Age* states that a Company has been organised in Philadelphia for the establishment of a steamship line between that port and ports in Cuba and Jamaica. The Company will have a capital of 500,000 dollars and will possess a fleet of four steamers, two of which have already been secured. It is intended that the vessels shall touch at the ports of Baracoa, Yunari, Gibara and Guatanamo in Cuba, and Port Antonio, Port Marie and Annotta Bay in Jamaica.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The following important communication, dated July 1st, 1899, has been received by the Secretary from Mr. Chamberlain in reply to a request for information on this point:—

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, inquiring as to the present position of the negotiations for reciprocal tariff arrangements between certain West Indian Colonies and the United States of America, and as to the nature of the proposals under consideration.

2. In reply, I am to acquaint you, for the information of your Committee, that Conventions have been entered into with the United States on behalf of the colonies of Barbados and British Guiana. These conventions are subject to ratification by the high contracting parties, and will not be ratified by the Queen until they have been approved by the Legislatures of the Colonies concerned.

THE BARBADOS CONVENTION.

3. The Barbados Convention provides for a reduction of 12 per cent. of the United States duties on cane sugars and molasses, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and asphalt or manjak: in return for which the following articles exported from the United States are to be admitted free of duty:—

Bran, tallow candles, carts and vehicles, clocks, corn brooms, corn or maize, corn meal, cotton seed oil, cycles and their parts, eggs, hay, horses, lamps, machinery for electric lighting, mules, pitch and tar, resin, tallow and wire fencing.

The following articles, exported from the United States, are to be admitted at a rate of duty not exceeding 5 per cent. on value :—

Fruits and vegetables, fresh, dried, canned or preserved; fish, tinned or canned; clothing and wearing apparel made of cotton; earthen and glass-ware; hardware and cutlery; furniture and upholstery; wooden and willow ware; wooden hoops.

The following articles are to be admitted at rates of duty not exceeding those specified below in each case :—

Bread and Biscuit, not fancy or in tin	... ..	\$0.12 per 100 lbs.
Cheese	... ..	0.96 ..
Flour of Wheat	... ..	0.60 per barrel.
Lard and its compounds and substitutes	... ..	0.48 per 100 lbs.
Meats—ham, bacon, tongues, canned or preserved meat	..	0.60 ..
Beef or Pork, salted or pickled	... ..	0.36 per 200 lbs.
Oil Meal and Cake	... ..	0.12 per 100 lbs.
Oleomargarine	... ..	0.24 ..
Butter...	... ..	0.36 ..
Beer—lager only	... ..	0.06 per gallon. 0.12 per doz. quarts.
Wines...	... ..	0.36 per gallon.
Lumber—pitch pine	... ..	1.00 per 1,000 feet.
Tobacco, unmanufactured, in packages of not less than 50 lbs.		0.22 per lb.

THE BRITISH GUIANA CONVENTION.

4. The British Guiana Convention provides for a reduction of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the United States duties on the following articles, the product of the soil or industry of that Colony :—cane sugars, fresh vegetables, and kaolin, in return for which the following articles, the product of the soil or industry of the United States, are to be admitted into the Colony free of duty :—bran, tallow candles, carts and vehicles, clocks, corn brooms, corn or maize, corn meal, cotton-seed oil, cycles and parts, eggs, hay, horses, lamps, machinery for electric lighting, and machinery and implements for mining, for agriculture, and for the manufacture of sugar, mules, pitch and tar, rosin, tallow, wire-fencing.

The following articles are to be admitted at a rate of duty not exceeding 5 per cent. on the value :—fruit and vegetables, fresh, dried, canned or preserved, fish, tinned or canned, ready-made clothing and wearing apparel made of cotton, earthen and glass-ware, hardware (metallic) and cutlery, furniture and upholstery, wooden and willow ware for domestic purposes, wooden hoops.

The following articles are to be admitted at rates of duty not exceeding in each case those specified below, viz. :—

Bread and Biscuit, not fancy or in tin	... ..	0.15 per 100 lbs.
Cheese...	... ..	1.00
Flour of Wheat	... ..	0.60 per barrel.
Lard and its compounds	... ..	0.50 per 100 lbs.
Meats—ham, bacon, tongues, canned or preserved meats	... ..	0.50 ..
Beef or Pork, salted or pickled	... ..	0.40 per 200 lbs.
Oil Meal and Cake	... ..	0.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per 100 lbs.
Oleomargarine	... ..	0.20 per 100 lbs.
Butter...	... ..	0.40 ..
Beer—lager only	... ..	0.08 per gallon. 0.20 per dozen reputed quarts.
Wines containing not more than 15 per cent. of alcohol	... ..	0.40 per gallon.
Lumber—yellow or pitch pine	... ..	1.00 per 1,000 feet.
Tobacco, unmanufactured, in packages of not less than 800 lbs., and containing not less than 10 per cent. of moisture	... ..	0.55 per lb.

5. In both conventions it is provided that the Colonies will not during the term of the conventions increase their present duties upon oats, coal, or shingles, being the product of the soil or industry of the United States: but upon other dutiable merchandise imported and not specially provided for in the conventions, the Colonies reserve the right to increase the duties by an amount not exceeding 50 per cent. thereof without any discrimination thereby against the exports of the United States: and it is also provided that for the same period such United States products as are at the date of the Conventions admitted free into Barbados and British Guiana shall so remain. In return, products of these Colonies which are admitted free into the United States shall remain so, and the duties at present imposed by the United States shall not be increased during the continuance of the Conventions.

6. The Conventions provide that there shall be no export duties or other charges upon exportation from either country on any articles of merchandise included therein; and no import duties on such articles other than those provided for in the Conventions.

7. The Rates granted to the United States are to continue preferential during the term of the Conventions in respect to all like imports from other countries, with the exception of Great Britain and the British possessions, and of such other countries as are entitled by convention with Great Britain to most favoured nation treatment; and in the case of these last-mentioned countries such exception shall cease to apply when the said conventional right shall terminate.

8. Delegates from Jamaica have as you are aware been sent to Washington, but up to date no particulars have been received of negotiations on behalf of that colony.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. P. LUCAS.

JAMAICA, BERMUDA AND TRINIDAD.

Since the receipt of the above letter, conventions have also been settled for Jamaica and Bermuda. The basis of a convention for Trinidad was referred to the local Government, but the terms offered not being considered acceptable, it was decided not to send delegates. Subsequent to a meeting of the Joint Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and the Agricultural Society on June 19th, this decision was reconsidered but has been again confirmed in the last few days.

THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM IN THE WEST INDIES.

The first annual report of the WEST INDIAN CO-OPERATIVE UNION, which was founded in 1898, for the purpose of encouraging the application of the Co-operative system, which has already proved so successful in Ireland and Denmark, to Agricultural Industries, and to establish Co-operative Credit Banks in the West Indies, has been laid on the table for the information of Members. The Union has commenced operations in Barbados, where two Areal Societies—"small local self-help mutual aid" Societies, each limited to a strictly defined agricultural area (hence the name areal) containing from 400 to 2,000 inhabitants—have been formed. A Co-operative Store has been opened in Bridgetown, and a Co-operative Credit Bank has been registered. The total capital raised by the Union has been £667 only, but it is estimated that if the Union had the whole of its nominal capital £10,000 subscribed, it could employ £7,000 of this amount in trading operations, which could be so employed as to yield a turnover of £56,000, yielding a net profit of £1,400.

TELEPHONE "4,356 AVENUE."

For the convenience of Members and Subscribers, a telephone has been installed in the Committee Room; the number is 4,356 Avenue.

THE CODRINGTON COLLEGE FUND.

This fund now amounts to £2,003 16s 2d. A meeting of the signatories of the original appeal is being arranged for. Appended is the fourth list of subscribers:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
W. J. Braikenridge, Esq.	10	10	0	F. M. C.	2	2	0
The Right Rev. the Bishop of Antigua	10	0	0	F. R. W.	2	2	0
The Lord Ashcombe	10	0	0	Rev. A. C. Hoadlam (Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford)	2	2	0
Sir J. W. Carrington (Chief Justice of Hong Kong)	10	0	0	Miss Eleanor Archer Houblon	2	2	0
Radley College Offertory	5	0	0	Miss Marie Houblon	2	2	0
Anonymous	5	0	0	R. Male, Esq.	2	2	0
Rev. W. Osborn B. Allen	5	0	0	Harry Moody, Esq.	2	0	0
Anonymous	5	0	0	Mrs. Grosett-Hearren	2	0	0
Rev. J. B. Ansted	5	0	0	Mr. Edmund Hobhouse	2	0	0
Miss Bushnell	5	0	0	Rev. Hy. Sidebotham	1	8	6
Mrs. France	5	0	0	Misses Farren	1	1	0
Rev. G. M. Gorham	5	0	0	Horace G. Boven, Esq.	1	1	0
Rev. W. Inge	5	0	0	Rev. E. D. Cree	1	1	0
Mrs. C. F. Lee	5	0	0	G. D. Dakyns, Esq.	1	1	0
Rev. J. L. C.	5	0	0	T. H. G.	1	1	0
F. M. H. Mercier, Esq.	5	0	0	Mrs. Hodge	1	1	0
Rev. G. D. W. Ommaney	5	0	0	Rev. J. Midgeley	1	1	0
Lady Somers	5	0	0	M. S. H.	1	1	0
Rev. F. Sterry	5	0	0	Winter Tourist	1	1	0
Rev. H. F. Tozer	5	0	0	Rev. W. S. Wood	1	1	0
Rev. J. J. P. Wyatt	5	0	0	Thos. Cattley, Esq.	1	0	0
St. Stephen's Church, Bournemouth	4	9	9	W. H. P. Cranleigh, Esq.	1	0	0
Dr. Field (Warden of Radley College)	4	0	0	E. J. B.	1	0	0
Holy Trinity Church, Headington Quarry	3	17	1	Miss Francis	1	0	0
Rev. Thomas Hewitt	3	3	0	Mrs. Mourelyan	1	0	0
H. D. Parry Mitchell, Esq.	3	3	0	Received	1	0	0
R. H. H.	3	0	0	Mrs. E. R. King	0	10	0
Pembroke College, Oxford, Collection	2	4	0	W.	0	10	0
Rev. W. H. E. Edge	2	2	0				

We again remind Members that Subscriptions may be sent to Messrs. Drummonds, 49, Charing Cross, W.C.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON ON THE RUM SURTAX.

Mr. Chamberlain stated in the House of Commons on July 7th, that he feared there was no probability of information being received from all the Colonies in time for the return showing the nature of the local excise restrictions on the manufacture of Rum, asked for in April last, to be presented during the present Session. The return was not limited to the production of Rum, but extended to the production of spirits of every kind. In this connection Lord George Hamilton's statement in the Debate on the Indian Tariff Act on June 15th as to the origin of the countervailing duty on spirits is important. When Cobden negotiated the Treaty with the French in 1860, one of the inducements which was offered the French Government to reduce the duties upon English goods exported to France was the expectation that French spirits should be allowed to come into this country on exactly the same duty as was paid by home-made spirits to the Excise. In the discussion which took place upon the Treaty it transpired that the Excise system in this country was much more rigorous than the French system, and accordingly the French Government, to compensate the British distiller, agreed to an additional duty of 2d. being imposed upon all spirits imported from France. The matter affected a large and important industry, and when the terms of the Treaty became known the British distillers got up an agitation and sent a deputation to Mr. Gladstone to point out that an extra duty of 2d. was not sufficient, and to demand that it should be raised to 5d. After some negotiations the extra duty of 5d. was agreed to. The section of the Treaty in which the surtax of 2d. is struck out and fresh terms negotiated is in the following terms:—

"Since the ratification of the said Treaty the Government of Her Britannic Majesty have ascertained that the surtax of 2d. a gallon is not sufficient to countervail the charges with which, in consequence of the operation of the Laws of Customs and Excise, home-made British spirits have now to contend; and that a surtax limited to the rate of 2d. a gallon would still leave home-made British spirits subject to a differential duty in favour of foreign brandies and spirits. Consequently the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, having represented these circumstances to the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, and His Imperial Majesty having consented that the amount of the said surtax shall be increased, the two high contracting parties to the said treaty of commerce do, by the present additional article, agree that the amount of such surtax shall be 5d. a gallon; and Her Britannic Majesty engages to recommend to Parliament the admission into the United Kingdom of brandies and spirits imported from France at a duty exactly equal to the Excise duty levied upon home-made spirits, with the addition of a surtax of 5d. a gallon."

Therefore you will see our distillers had the advantage of a countervailing duty.

CENTRAL SUGAR FACTORIES.

Mr. Robert Harvey who, together with Mr. J. J. Wilkie, was commissioned by the Government to report on the proposals for Central Factories in Antigua has now returned from that Island and has presented his report to Mr. Chamberlain. The report is, we understand, strongly in favour of the erection of Central Factories in Antigua.

The following particulars of the Central Factory system in Santa Cruz, which are derived from a reliable source will doubtless be of interest to members at the present juncture. It appears that the Central Factory buys the canes from the planters at a price equal to the value of six pounds of Muscovado sugar for every hundred pounds of cane delivered. The value is determined by the New York quotation for Muscovado in hogsheads after deducting export duty, shipping expenses, freight, insurance, commission and allowing for loss in weight, etc., and adding rate of exchange for thirty days sight draft, which is generally at a premium of from 2 to 3 @ 3½%. In calculating the net price the cost of hogshead is not taken into consideration. Assuming the selling price of Muscovado in New York to be \$4 per 100 lbs. duty paid, after deducting the duty and charges amounting to say \$1.86, there would remain \$2.14 per 100 lbs., which at an exchange of 4.87 would represent £9 16s. 8d. per ton net, so that taken at 6% it would seem that the price per ton of canes would work out at 11s. 9½d.

The price is fixed every Monday by a Committee consisting of five Members, two of whom are appointed by the cane deliverers, and two by the Government, who also appoint the chairman. The canes are delivered by the planters to four different stations situated in the country, where the canes are ground, and whence the juice is pumped up to the Central Station through underground pipes. The canes are delivered by the planters ready to put into the mill. The underground system has not proved a success. After delivering his canes and receiving the weekly payment, the planter has no further interest in the matter except that he is allowed to cart back the Bagasse. It is thought by many to be a drawback that this system does not encourage the cultivation of a superior quality of cane, because the planter who delivers a cane of an inferior quality gets now the same price as the one who cultivates a superior cane, but it is believed that it will be difficult to find a form under which the canes could be paid for on the basis of quality. The planters make five years contract with the Central Factory.

BEET PROSPECTS.

In FRANCE the development of roots is generally satisfactory, but somewhat backward as compared with last year. In GERMANY the beet has, on the whole, made moderate progress, but the crop is from a week to a fortnight behind that of last year. In AUSTRIA field work has been delayed by the rain, but the weather has been favourable to the growth of beet.

JAMAICA WEATHER REPORT.

Our Jamaica Correspondents report that during the fortnight ending June 6th ult., in Saint Thomas parish, the weather has been dry, and the crops are suffering; during the first half of the fortnight a few light showers of rain fell, leading planters to believe that the seasons were about to set in, but such was not the case; very hot sun succeeded and continued, and the little benefit derived from the light showers has been neutralised by the excessive heat. Rain is much wanted. In St. Ann's parish, there have been heavy rains in the interior, and the weather has been slightly showery to dry and dusty in the lowlands. Crop prospects are good. There have been no seasons at the regular time.

COCOA.

MESSRS. G. M. & C. WOODHOUSE: TRINIDAD.—A flat tone has prevailed since the date of our last report, and prices have further declined 3/- to 4/- per cwt., but at the reduction there has latterly been rather more demand, especially for the cheaper qualities. At the public sales 3,082 bags were offered, of which rather more than half have found buyers, latest quotations being 63/6 to 64/6 for low middling and middling, 65/- to 67/- for good middling, and 68/- to 73/- for fine and superior. The deliveries for the month are again very light, the total from 1st January to 1st July being 23,501 bags against 29,740 bags last year; the landings for the same period were 31,950 bags against 24,821 bags, and stocks on 1st July 27,797 bags against 31,518 bags.

GUENADA.—Prices have shown a declining tendency during the past four weeks, but with importers willing to meet the market a fair business has been transacted at a reduction of about 2s. per cwt. Ordinary to good fair now selling at 58s. to 60s. and middling to fine at 60s. 6d. to 63s. Out of a total of 6,603 bags offered at the sales the greater part has been sold, and stocks in first hands are now very reduced. Deliveries from the 1st January to 1st July were 23,040 bags against 24,330 bags last year. Landings 33,095 bags against 35,303 bags, and stocks on the 1st July 23,002 bags against 23,791 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

(Messrs. E. D. & P. MAN).—The tone of the proof market continues very firm, but owing to the absence of supplies in first hands no business is reported for the past month. The "Atlantis" has arrived with 340 Puns., but samples are not yet ready for market.

Jamaica continue in active request, particularly for the commoner descriptions, which are comparatively scarce, and most of the recent arrivals have changed hands at an advance of 2d to 3d. per gallon, fair common being now worth fully 1/11.

We append the latest Board of Trade returns:—

		1898.	1898.	1897.	1896.
Landed	In June	499,448	484,922	215,971	320,496
	6 months	2,346,169	3,074,389	3,094,463	2,914,534
Home Consumption	In June	211,338	230,159	227,084	198,376
	6 months	2,108,070	1,925,098	1,982,266	1,700,559
Export	In June	64,591	84,752	79,192	63,905
	6 months	418,745	435,194	443,120	451,980
Stock	30th June	7,099,000	8,597,000	9,050,000	9,587,030

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
Jamaica, Puns	10,195	11,184	13,758	12,018
Other West India Islands	995	1,049	908	669
Demerara	2,182	5,504	7,190	8,325
Foreign	712	835	1,489	2,903
British East India	419	275	211	513
Vatted	3,511	3,887	3,935	4,245
Total	18,014	22,832	27,491	28,668

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA, TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS.

		Sugar.	Rum.	Coffee.	Cocoa	Asphalte.	Gold.	Co'nuts.	Molasses	
		Tons.	Pens.	lbs.	lbs.	Tons.	oz.		Puns.	Tons. Bril.
BRITISH GUIANA, Jan. 1st to June	22nd, 1898—	42,313	9,848	—	27,234	—	46,329	—	1,038	
"	20th, 1899—	27,855	4,766	—	97,957	—	47,452	384	2,794	
TRINIDAD,	21st, 1898—	387,150	834	9,120	15,212,450	43,471	—	6,358,324	2,781	91 1,079
"	" 1899—	448,848	1,305	3,360	20,381,810	48,519	—	5,484,572	8,277	272 183
BARBADOS	24th, 1898—	38,105	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25,408
"	" 1899—	25,559	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,598

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to July 1st, 1899, 303,568 tons, against 355,168 tons 1898, and 319,182 tons in 1897.

DELIVERIES, ,, ,, 319,444 ,, ,, 362,481 ,, ,, 365,128 ,, ,,

PRESENT STOCKS:—61,109 tons against 84,007 tons and 87,112 tons.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

1,689,422 tons, against 1,945,253 tons in 1898, and 2,104,851 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88% (Czarnikow) 10/7½ to 10/8½ in 1899, against 9 3 in 1898 and 8'5¼ in 1897.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). June 13th, 1899: "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." June 27th: "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." **DEMERARA.**—(Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) June 7th: "Moderate rains generally since last message." June 12th: "Weather changeable, slight showers." June 17th: "Nice rains have fallen." July 6th: "Rain has fallen heavily." (Messrs. John McConnel & Co.). June 8th: "Berbice, some showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted." June 10th: "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted." June 19th: "Moderate rains generally since last message." June 27th: "Some showers have fallen but more rain much wanted." July 6th: "Rain is falling generally." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. C. Tennant & Sons.) June 15th: "Wet season fairly set in." June 26th: "Weather showery, very favourable and general."

SPECIAL TELEGRAM FROM BARBADOS.

July 10th, 1899.—As we go to Press we have received the following special telegram from Barbados:—"Sugar \$2 per 100 lbs.; molasses 15 cents per gallon. Market depressed, holders refuse to sell to any extent at present low prices."

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

The Treasurers hope that those Members and Subscribers who have not yet paid their Subscriptions for the current year will forward a remittance at their earliest convenience.

Subscribers of £1 is. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 19.

Telegrams
"CARIB." LONDON.
Telephone:
"4358 AVENUE."

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

August 5th, 1899.

PROPOSED DEPUTATION TO LORD SALISBURY.

In view of the satisfactory debate on the Indian Sugar Duties Act, it was decided by Members of Parliament interested in the bounty question to request Lord Salisbury to receive a deputation of Members of the House of Commons. The following is the text of the request:—

"We, the undersigned, being anxious to see the disabilities removed, under which British Home and Colonial sugar producing and refining industries at present labour, owing to the continuance of the Continental State Bounty Systems, shall feel obliged if you will consent to receive a Deputation of Members of Parliament to urge Her Majesty's Government to promote the re-assembling of the Brussels Conference, now adjourned, and to ask that our Delegates thereat may be authorised to support any measures calculated in their view to bring the Conference to a successful issue.

"We are, My Lord Marquess,

"Your obedient Servants,

EDWARD CLARKE.

JOHN E. DORINGTON.

JAMES FERGUSSON.

WM. H. HOULDSWORTH.

JOHN LUBBOCK.

THOS. SUTHERLAND.

E. STOCK HILL.

M. M. BROWNAGGREE.

CYTHBERT QUILTER.

J. M. DENNY.

E. BRODIE HOARE.

J. F. HOGAN.

HENRY KIMBER.

J. W. LAURIE.

W. F. LAWRENCE.

R. BIDDULPH MARTIN.

CHAS. McARTHUR.

VICTOR MILWARD.

P. A. MUNTZ.

DONALD NICOL.

W. E. M. TOMLINSON.

JAMES PARKER SMITH.

Appended to this, a Memorandum was circulated with a covering letter among Members of the House soliciting their attendance, the following reply having been received from Lord Salisbury:—

LORD SALISBURY'S REPLY TO THE REQUEST.

Foreign Office, July 15th, 1899.

Dear Sir,

Lord Salisbury desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, and to assure you that he will have pleasure in receiving the proposed Deputation on the subject of the proposed re-assembling of the Brussels Conference upon the Sugar Bounties.

But on account of pressure of business and for other reasons, he fears that the selection of a date for the interview must be temporarily postponed.

I beg to remain, etc.,

(Signed), HENRY FOLEY.

W. F. LAWRENCE, Esq., M.P.

Owing to the lateness of the Session, and the absence of so many Members from the House, it has been decided not to press the matter of the Deputation at the present moment. In the meantime a copy of the Memorial together with the following explanatory memorandum, the texts of the resolutions passed by the various Chambers of Commerce, together with extracts from Parliamentary papers, and the names of the 188 Members who have endorsed the policy, has been officially forwarded to Lord Salisbury.

OBJECT OF THE DEPUTATION.

"The object of the Deputation is to urge Her Majesty's Government to take steps to reassemble the International Conference for the suppression of Sugar Bounties, recently held at Brussels and now adjourned, by intimating to the Belgian Government their willingness to enter into a Convention with Austria, Belgium, Germany, Holland, and Sweden (and France and Russia also, if they are willing) under which the Contracting Powers shall agree to abolish the bounties they now give, and Her Majesty's Government on their part shall undertake that on the markets of Great Britain and Ireland and India they will secure to such Contracting Powers absolute Free Trade and an 'open door'—in other words, guarantee to them that, after abolishing Bounties themselves, they shall not be exposed to the bounty-fed competition of other countries in British markets.

"No Convention without such a clause would be of the slightest value, and it is primarily due to the unwillingness of Her Majesty's Government to grant this security that the many efforts made to secure the abolition of Bounties by International Treaty in the course of the last thirty years by successive Governments of both parties in this country have proved abortive. It is a condition which has always been and must always be insisted upon by those countries which are willing to abolish their bounties. Her Majesty's Government have officially intimated that it is their 'earnest desire to secure the suppression of all Bounties on Sugar, which they consider to be prejudicial to the general interests of the British Empire.' The Bounty-giving Powers on their side, with the possible exception of France and Russia, are equally desirous of securing the suppression of the system, and they very naturally reply, 'If it is the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to see Bounties abolished, what possible objection can there be to granting such a clause?'"

BRISTOL AND THE BOUNTIES.

Bristol has fallen into line with London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, and has condemned the Bounty System in the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Arthur Lee, seconded by Mr. J. H. Howell, and passed on July 18th by a large majority:—

"That the Bounty System is directly antagonistic to Free Trade and mischievous in its results, and that the Government be urged to take prompt measures to bring about its abolition."

THE RECIPROCITY NEGOTIATIONS.

Further correspondence has passed between the West India Committee and the Secretary of State for the Colonies on this subject as follows:—

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

Sir,

West India Committee, July 10th, 1899.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 1st inst. (16210/99) informing my Committee that Conventions have been entered into with the United States of America on behalf of the Colonies of Barbados and British Guiana for reciprocal tariff arrangements and giving particulars as to the nature of those Conventions, which are subject to the ratification by the high contracting parties, and will not be ratified by the Queen until they have been approved by the Legislatures of the Colonies concerned.

With reference thereto, I am respectfully to ask you—

- (1) Whether in the Conventions there is any provision against the United States reducing the duty to all or any other Sugar Exporting Countries.
- (2) Whether the United States are bound to make no alteration in their sugar duty for the period of the Conventions, and
- (3) Whether the duration of the Conventions is fixed absolutely for five years, or whether there are any means of terminating them before that period.

Thanking you for the important information which you have been pleased to vouchsafe to my Committee,

The Rt. Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., etc.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Sir,

Downing Street, 15th July, 1899.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to inform you in reply to your questions that,

(1) There is not any provision in the Conventions which have been entered into with the United States of America, on behalf of Barbados and British Guiana for reciprocal tariff arrangements, against the United States reducing the duty to all or any other sugar exporting countries.

(2) The United States are not bound to make no alteration in their sugar duty for the period of the Conventions, and

(3) The duration of the Conventions is fixed absolutely for five years, and no means are therein provided for terminating them within that period.

I am, etc.,

The Chairman, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

A CONVENTION FOR TRINIDAD.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

Sir,

West India Committee, July 13th, 1899.

I have the honour to inform you that the attention of my Committee has been called to the annexed resolutions passed by a meeting of the combined Committees of the Agricultural Society and Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad on Monday, June 19th ultimo.*

My Committee understand that the decision not to send delegates to Washington to assist on behalf of Trinidad at the negotiations now proceeding for reciprocal tariff arrangements between certain West Indian Colonies and the United States of America has been reconsidered, but again confirmed by the Acting Governor during the past few days, in direct opposition to these resolutions.

It would appear that in the first instance, His Excellency, Sir Hubert Jerningham, acted under some misapprehension as to the feeling of the general body of Planters and Commercial men of the Colony. They have never actually been consulted in the matter, nor indeed has the Legislative Council.

I am to inform you that at a largely-attended meeting of Trinidad Proprietors held this afternoon, it was resolved that it was of the utmost importance that Trinidad should share in the benefits to be derived from the reciprocal tariff arrangements now being made.

I am respectfully to point out to you, Sir, that of all the British West India Colonies, Trinidad is the one best suited for entering into a reciprocity treaty at the present time in view of the fact that the duties in Trinidad are now lower than those in any other West Indian Colony, and that on the basis of the British Guiana Convention, Trinidad would, by the mere re-arrangement of her duties, reap the full benefit of the 12½% reduction offered by the United States.

The opinion of my Committee is fully endorsed by the West India Association of Glasgow, who have expressed themselves decidedly and strongly in favour of a reciprocity treaty being arranged.

I am, therefore, respectfully to request you to be pleased to ensure the representation of Trinidad at the reciprocity negotiations now proceeding at Washington, with a view to securing for that Island a similar reciprocity Convention to that now concluded between British Guiana and the United States.

In the event of your not seeing your way to accede to their request, I am respectfully to ask you, before coming to a definite decision in the matter, to receive a small deputation of the West India Committee, which may lay before you the precise facts.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.

The Rt. Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., etc.

* Resolutions urging the representation of Trinidad at the Washington reciprocity negotiations, not printed.

4

COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Downing Street, 3rd August, 1899.

Sir,
I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th ultimo, urging the resumption of negotiations for reciprocal tariff arrangements between Trinidad and the United States of America.

2. I am to inform you that, subject to ratification hereafter, and to acceptance or refusal by the Colonial Legislature, a Convention has been signed with the United States on behalf of Trinidad. The full text has not yet been received in this Department, but the general outline of the Convention is as follows:—

3. It provides for a reduction of 12½ per cent. of United States' duties on the following articles, the product of the soil or industry of the Colony—cane sugar, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and asphalt or manjack; in return for which, various articles, the product of the soil or industry of the United States of America, are to be admitted into Trinidad free of duty, and the following articles at rates of duty not exceeding those specified below in each case:—

Bread and biscuit, not fancy or in tin	... ..	\$0.12 per 100 lbs.
Cheese	... ..	0.96 „
Flour of Wheat	... ..	0.60 per barrel.
Lard and its compounds and substitutes	... ..	0.48 per 100 lbs.
Oleomargarine	... ..	0.12 „
Butter	... ..	0.24 „
Beer, lager only	... ..	{ 0.06 per gallon.
		{ 0.18 per doz. quarts.
Wines	... ..	0.36 per gallon.
Lumber, pitch pine	... ..	1.00 per 1,000 feet.
Tobacco—		
(1) Cigarettes	... ..	0.36 per lb.
(2) Unmanufactured Tobacco	... ..	0.30 „

5. The other provisions are similar to those of the British Guiana Convention, as to which I am to refer you to the letters from this Department of the 1st and 15th ultimo; but clauses have been inserted permitting the maintenance of the export duty on Trinidad asphalt, and of the export duty now levied on sugar under the Immigration Ordinances; and the following sentence has been added in further explanation of the most-favoured-nation treatment accorded to the United States of America, viz.: “And all the products of the United States of America imported into said Colony shall be admitted at lowest rates of duty conceded to the like products of any country.”

6. The above information is subject to correction when full details have been received.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

The Chairman, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL LOANS BILL.

The Colonial Loans Bill passed through the House of Commons on August 2nd last. The amounts to be advanced under the provisions of this Bill to the West Indian Colonies are specified in the schedule as follows:—

Name of Colony or Place.	Purposes of Loan.	Maximum Amount to be Advanced.
	(Public Works	£
	(In aid of Revenue	65,000
Jamaica...	(Completion and Equipment of Railway	150,000
	(Interest on Railway Debentures	110,000
	(Waterworks	88,000
Trinidad	(Railways and Public Works	40,000
Barbados	(Hurricane Loan	110,000
St. Vincent	(Hurricane Loan	50,000
		50,000

The Chancellor of the Exchequer when introducing the Bill on July 27th, explained that the Government realised that there was no hope of passing, this Session, the Colonial Loans Fund Bill, although it had reached the Committee stage, but that they hoped the House would consent to the legislation which he now proposed. Thinking that the Colonial Loans Fund Bill would be passed, the Crown Agents for the Colonies had refrained from issuing loans in the ordinary way for some considerable time. There was, in consequence, an accumulation, and if all the loans that had been delayed were issued at once the market would be glutted. The Bill which he now brought forward substituted the Local Loans Fund for the Colonial Loans Fund as the source from which the money required would be derived.

IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS FROM ST. KITTS.

The following resolutions, passed unanimously at a Public Meeting held on the 5th of July last, at the Court House, St. Kitts, under the presidency of the Hon. Edward G. Tonn, have been received by mail as we go to press.

Moved by W. R. BOON, Esq., Proprietor and Lessee of Estates, and Captain St. Kitts' Defence Forces: seconded by W. D. GORDON, Esq., Attorney of Estates.

Whereas the Sugar Industry of the Presidency, which is the sole means of subsistence of the inhabitants thereof, is, by reason of the unfair competition of the State subsidised sugars of Europe and by the antiquated methods of manufacture now existing, in danger of extinction;

And Whereas it is impossible under the uncertain conditions created by the Bounty System to introduce improved methods and expensive modern machinery by private individual effort;

Be it Resolved by this Meeting—

"That an appeal be made to the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to direct that, with a view to the erection in this Presidency, by aid of the Imperial Government, of Central Sugar Factories, expert advisers be sent, at the earliest possible opportunity, to St. Kitts Nevis to examine into and report upon the establishment of such factories, as was recently done in the case of the neighbouring Presidency of Antigua."

Moved by The Hon. B. S. DAVIS, Proprietor, and Member of the Executive Council. Seconded by R. ALLMAN HARDTMAN, Esq., Attorney of Estates—

Whereas the present deplorable condition of this Presidency is largely and directly attributable to the pernicious influence of the foreign Sugar Bounties on the staple industry thereof;

Be it Resolved—

"That, in the opinion of this Meeting, it is incumbent on Her Majesty's Government to enact in the United Kingdom, in the interests of the inhabitants of these colonies, measures for the protection of the sugar industry similar to those recently adopted in Her Majesty's Indian possessions."

Moved by ANDREW MUNRO, Esq., Merchant, and Member of the Legislative Council. Seconded by D. T. BLAKE, Esq., Proprietor, and Merchant—

Whereas in view of the depressed condition of the Sugar Industry, and the consequent general poverty and distress which prevail among the inhabitants of this Presidency, it is inexpedient to increase the burden of taxation on any section or class of the community;

Be it Resolved—

"That this Meeting pledges itself to support every well-considered effort to reduce the expenditure for public administration, and to oppose any and all attempts to increase taxation in any shape or form."

Moved by EDW. D. B. DOBRIDGE, Esq., Attorney for Estates and Member of the Legislative Council; seconded by E. T. SHELFORD, Esq., Proprietor.

Be it Resolved—

"That copies of the resolutions passed at this meeting be forwarded by the Chairman to the West India Committee and to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

CODRINGTON COLLEGE SAVED.

Thanks to the energy and prompt action of the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. R. Rutherford, and Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, the sub-committee appointed on January 12th last, the closing of Codrington College which at that time seemed inevitable has been averted, and the success of their efforts is recorded in the following letter which was received by the Secretary on July 20th last from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Trustees of the College:—"DEAR MR. ASPINALL, Thanks to the efforts of the West India Committee the Society is now relieved from the consideration of the question of suspending the work of Codrington College. Other circumstances tend also to justify the instructions given to the Principal that students can now be received without any warning that the College may be closed before their course is finished.—Yours faithfully, HENRY W. TUCKER, *Secretary*." It is worthy of note that the Rev. Canon Hinds Howell, for so many years a member of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, whose decease at the advanced age of ninety-one years, was announced on July 31st, last, was himself a distinguished *alumnus* of Codrington, and that in a speech at Norwich, when an address was presented to him a few years ago on his retiring from the representation of the clergy in Convocation, he said: "I am no speaker; my heart, head, and hand have been the means by which I have risen to the position I now occupy. My father died before I was sixteen, and from that time I have been my own master. I came to England with the determination to be a missionary, and studied, not only theology, but medicine." This shows how fully was appreciated the expressed will of the generous Founder that students of Codrington might study medicine as well as divinity, that by the apparent usefulness of the former to all mankind, they might both endear themselves to the people and have better opportunities of doing good to men's souls while they were taking care of their bodies.

ANTIGUA CENTRAL FACTORY.

At a meeting of the Leeward Islands Sub-committee, held on Thursday, July 27th, which was honoured by the presence of His Excellency Sir Francis Fleming and the Hons. Thomas D. Foote and John J. Camacho, it was unanimously resolved: "That it is of the highest importance that a Central Factory for Antigua should be erected in time to deal with the crop of 1901." We have since learnt that the question of a Central Factory for Antigua and as to how funds can best be provided for its construction is engaging Mr. Chamberlain's careful attention, and it is hoped that a decision will shortly be arrived at.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE IN ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

A local branch of the West India Committee was successfully inaugurated at a Public Meeting held at the Court House, St. Kitts, on Wednesday, July 5th, last, and we quote from the *Saint Christopher Advertiser* the following account of the proceedings which then took place:—"The chair was occupied by the Hon. Edward G. Todd, the Hon. Secretary of the branch, who explained the aims and objects of the Committee, and earnestly urged on all present the duty of becoming members and thus assisting, morally and materially, the West India Committee in London, who were so splendidly and successfully fighting the West Indian cause in the Mother-country. Addresses were delivered, and resolutions on the subject of Central Factories, the Bounty question, and the question of Local Taxation were moved and seconded by Mr. W. R. Boon, Mr. W. D. Gordon, the Hon. B. S. Davis, Mr. R. A. Hardtman, Mr. Andrew Munro, Mr. D. S. Blake, Mr. E. D. B. Dobridge, and Mr. E. J. Sheiford. The various resolutions were carried unanimously, and it was resolved to forward copies to the West India Committee and to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies. At the close of the meeting some twenty to twenty-five gentlemen enrolled their names as members of the Committee. We congratulate Mr. Todd on the successful launching of the St. Kitts Branch of the West India Committee, and we earnestly hope that the new organisation, under his leadership, will do much to promote the prosperity of the Presidency."

WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION OF LIVERPOOL.

Mr. W. H. Alty has been elected Chairman and Mr. E. S. Parker Deputy-Chairman of the above Association for the ensuing three years.

THE IMPROVED STEAMER SERVICES.

The contract for the Improved Inter-insular and Canadian Steamer Services, particulars of which were given in Mr. Chamberlain's Letter to the West India Committee, of July 1st,* has now been signed, and it is hoped that the Services will accordingly commence in July, 1900.

THE FIBRE INDUSTRY.

We have received from Messrs. C. A. & H. Nichols the following interesting particulars of the "La Gauloise" decorticator for treating Ramie Fibre. "Differing in most respects from machines previously invented, the "La Gauloise" machine removes simultaneously the wood and the pellicle. It decorticates Ramie stems when green, does not break the fibres, but leaves them intact in their full lengths, thus preserving their natural parallelism and furnishing a regular and unaltered fibre. The characteristic parts of the machine are as follows:—An anvil, a striker fitted with blades, and an elastic roller. The stalks are broken and stripped between the anvil and the blades of the striker, then they are immediately scraped and freed from the pellicle, between the same blades and the elastic roller. The supplementary parts comprise, first of all two feeding rollers placed at the end of a table and in front of the anvil, which seize the stalks and manipulate them at a speed of about 14 inches per second. These stalks then pass over the anvil, then between this anvil and the striker blades. The result is that all the part beyond the anvil is crushed by the shock of the blades which remove the woody tissue or bark, leaving only the hackle to which the pellicle is still adhering.

When the stripping is effected, each blade seizes the shred of bark and forces it to pass between it and an endless cloth enveloping the elastic roller mentioned above. The blade implants itself in the endless cloth and continually scrapes the shreds without scraping the cloth, because the shred has only a speed of 14 inches, like the feeding rollers, whilst the blade and the cloth have both the same speed of about 12½ feet per second. The bark is compulsorily scraped, because it cannot be carried along, being held by the pressure of the feeding rollers which act on the part not yet decorticated. Further it is so constructed that dismantling and adjustment are both easy and rapid. To examine the inside, one has only to unscrew two wing nuts fitted at the top, and whilst keeping the feeding rollers the same distance apart, to lift up the jointed frame on the pins which support the top roller. It is therefore easily handled and everything recommends it to the attention of those who have been long on the track of a good machine for decortivating Ramie."

JAMAICA CROP AND WEATHER REPORT.

July 15th, 1899.—During the past fortnight there has been very little rain in CLARENDON parish. The days have been hot and the nights cool. Ground provisions are fairly plentiful. Sugar is still coming in, but prices are low. There is a fair supply of Beeswax. The Mangoe crop is small. A few bunches of Bananas are still coming to market. In SAINT THOMAS'S parish the weather has been hot, some very refreshing showers have fallen, but little or no improvement is shown in the appearance of cultivation in consequence of the great heat previous to and subsequent to the showers of rain. Our correspondent in PORTLAND parish reports that the weather since the beginning of the month has been unsettled. The heat has been oppressive. Banana crops continue favourable, but other minor products small. On the 11th a shock of earthquake was felt at 2.50 a.m., accompanied by heavy rains. On the 12th there was heavy rain at night, but the 13th was hot and dry.

BEEF PROSPECTS.

The weather abroad has been more seasonable, and the effect is shown in Licht's Weights which are now ahead of last year, but still below good years. Reports generally are good, and, with the present fine weather, anticipations remain favourable.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE.—TRINIDAD.—There has been a better general demand during the last month, and prices have steadily improved, closing about 1s. 6d. per cwt. above those ruling at the date of our last report. At the auctions 3,152 bags were offered, and nearly the whole were disposed of in the sale room and privately, last quotations being 54s. 6d. to 55s. 6d. for low middling and middling, 67s. to 68s. 6d. for good middling, and 69s. to 78s. for fine to superior. Deliveries continue light, the total from 1st January to 29th July being 25,785 bags, against 32,225 bags last year. The landings were 34,074 bags against 26,548 bags, and stocks on 29th July 27,548 bags against 30,761 bags.

GREENADA.—The small quantity of Grenada offered during the last month has met with a very good demand, and has all sold at prices which show an advance of about 2/- per cwt. At the sales held on the 11th, 18th and 25th ult., only 484 bags were offered, but at the last sales, held on the 1st inst., the improved supply of 1,122 bags was brought forward, and sold with good competition at 59/- to 61/6 for ordinary to good fair, and 62/- to 65/- for middling to fine. Deliveries from 1st January to 29th July were 25,806 bags against 27,035 bags last year, landings 34,322 bags against 37,635 bags, and stocks on the 29th July, 20,963 bags against 22,868 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. MAX.—A firm tone prevails for all brown proofs, but uncolored are difficult of sale, being in excess of demand. Business consists of some 350 puns. Demerara and Berbice @ 1/6 to 1/7 pf., being again rather dearer. The "Sneaton" has arrived with 1,050 puns., but samples are not yet ready for market. Jamaicas, although rather quieter, continue in steady demand, and most of the recent arrivals have been disposed of.

We append the stocks in London:—

	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
Jamaica, Puns	12,408	13,647	15,391	15,114
Other West India Islands	1,020	1,317	932	834
Demerara	2,313	4,741	6,874	8,146
Foreign	874	885	1,505	2,905
British East India	521	234	199	449
Vatted	3,419	3,952	3,884	4,224
Total	20,555	24,770	28,785	31,672

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA, TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Coffee. lbs.	Cocoa lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts. 384	Molasses Puns.		
BRITISH GUIANA, Jan. 1st to June 22nd, 1898—	42,313	9,848	—	27,234	—	46,229	—	1,038		
" " " 30th, 1899—	30,269	5,805	—	97,957	—	47,452	384	8,119		
TRINIDAD, " " July 19th, 1898—	436,785	884	9,760	10,463,650	53,267	—	6,576,024	3,426	98	183
" " " 1899—	469,373	1,479	3,520	22,226,310	68,115	—	6,520,129	9,221	235	183
BARBADOS " " 22nd, 1898—	45,478	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30,085	
" " " 1899—	41,162	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25,314	

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to July 29th, 1899, 337,394 tons, against 409,351 tons in 1898, and 365,504 tons in 1897.

DELIVERIES " " 358,427 " " 411,493 " " 419,309 " "

PRESENT STOCKS:—55,952 tons against 89,178 tons and 79,253 tons.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

1,407,529 tons, against 1,618,610 tons in 1898, and 1,721,048 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88% (Czarnikow) 11 - in 1899, against 9 4½ in 1898 and 8 5½ to 8 6 in 1897.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

ANTIGUA (Messrs. Boddingtons). July 17th: "Rainfall general, 4 to 6 inches." **BARBADOS**—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). July 11th: "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." July 25th Idem. **DEMERARA**—(Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) July 25th: "Weather all that can be desired, nice showers with fine days intervening." (Messrs. John McConnel & Co.). July 17th: "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message." **BERBICE**: "Some light showers have fallen, but more rain wanted." **TRINIDAD**—(New Colonial Co.). July 11th: "Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following publications have been received during the past month and can be inspected at the Committee Room: *E. O. Licht's Monthly Report, July 15th (No. II)*; *The International Sugar Journal Vol. I, No. 7, July, and No. 8, August*; *Report on the finances of Jamaica by Sir David Barbour, K.C.S.I.*; *The West India Bulletin, Vol. I, No. 1*; *The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report: Trinidad Prices Current*; *The Jamaica Official Gazette*; *The Trinidad Royal Gazette*; and *Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, E. Kynaston's, C. M. & C. Woodhouse's and Wilson Smithett & Co.'s circulars*. The Secretary will be pleased to receive publications of interest relating to the West Indies, to be laid on the table of the **WEST INDIA COMMITTEE**, which will be duly acknowledged under the above heading.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

Secretary.

Subscribers of 5s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 20.

Telegrams
"CARIB, LONDON."
Telephone:
"4356 AVENUE."

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

September 4th, 1899.

THE RECENT HURRICANE.

It is our painful duty to record that a hurricane hardly, if at all, less severe than that which devastated Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent in September, 1898, swept over the Leeward Islands on August 7th last, creating widespread destruction and loss of life. It is unnecessary to recapitulate in the present circular the various telegrams which have been received from the distressed Islands, and subsequently communicated to the Press. These telegrams have been fully borne out by the official reports received by the recent mail by the Colonial Office and West India Committee. In a despatch to the Colonial Office, Mr. George Melville, C.M.G., Acting Governor of the Leeward Islands, gives the following account of this overwhelming calamity.

MONTSERRAT DEVASTATED.

"After going through the town of Plymouth and visiting the temporary hospitals and shelters for the wounded and homeless people, I drove out into the country for some distance. The whole island outside of the town is a complete wreck, and a more awful scene of desolation it would be impossible to conceive, the appearance of the trees without a single leaf conveying the idea that a forest fire had passed over the spot. The large lime tree orchards of the Montserrat Company are all laid flat, in some cases the lime trees torn up by the roots being blown in heaps for some hundreds of yards from where they were planted. Pieces of clothing are seen caught in the branches of withered and leafless trees, and on the sides of hills where there was a collection of small houses these are strewn with stones and pieces of wood, making it impossible to say where the houses originally stood.

"All the estate buildings have been more or less levelled with the ground; and the planters having lost their homes, there is no one to give employment to the people. The sights to be seen in the temporary hospitals, which have been promptly provided, owing to the energetic action of Mr. Gordon, are harrowing to a degree. In these, three doctors are hard at work all the day, with a staff of four female nurses and one male nurse, under the supervision of Mrs. Robertson, the matron of the Holbourn Hospital. Dr. Duke informed me, with the request that you may be so informed, that he had under medical treatment for compound fracture of the limbs and scalp wounds in most cases 10 per cent. of the population, and quite 10,000 people out of a population of over 12,000 are being fed at present. For the five days subsequent to the date of the hurricane there has been expended in food alone £199 11s., or a daily expenditure of about £40. This is excluding what has been sent from Antigua, Dominica and Barbados.

"There have been 84 deaths up to date, and there is an average daily mortality at the hospital of four. It is absolutely necessary that relief works be started as soon as possible for the people, for the longer they are fed the more disinclined they will become to turn to work for a livelihood. Fourteen distribution centres have been established by the untiring energy of Mr. Gordon, who has been ably assisted by several gentlemen. All classes of the community in Montserrat are unanimous in their praise of the energetic and able manner in which the Acting Commissioner has organized matters to meet all emergencies. I regret to say that the poorer classes of the people have—perhaps it may be put down to the pressure of hunger and the want of homes—shown ingratitude for all that has been done for them by showing symptoms of a wish to seize the food which is served out to them by the police. To keep them in check I understand that Captain Rolleston, of Her Majesty's ship *Tribune*, intends to remain here for some days, in case the presence of a ship of war may be necessary to prevent food riots and also to take from here further supplies of food and clothing.

"From what I have seen I feel sure that if the hurricane had struck the island at its height during the night, there would have been very few of the inhabitants left alive, and this opinion is justified by the phenomenal readings of the barometer, as will be seen by Mr. Watts's interesting report. I spoke to one or two planters and to some members of the Executive Council, and they were unanimous in their opinion that the establishment of two central factories, one on the north side of the island and another on the south, each for about 2,000 or 3,000 acres of canes, is now the only saving of the island, as the lime-tree cultivations have been swept away, and as there are no planters or others in the island who are in a position to give employment. The clergy of all denominations have suffered sadly, having lost their churches, their houses, and in most cases their all.

NEVIS SUFFERED MOST AFTER MONTSERRAT.

"I left Montserrat this morning at 4 in her Majesty's ship *Tribune*, and arrived at Charlestown, Nevis, about 7.30. This island has suffered most after Montserrat. In the temporary hospital in Charlestown, the infirmary having been blown away, there are 70 cases under medical treatment for wounds, out of a population of 14,000; but this number is being daily added to. As far as can be ascertained, up to the present time, 700 houses have been destroyed, 2,000 people are homeless, and 1,000 are being fed daily at present.

"With the help which I expect from my appeal to the other West Indian Colonies, Antigua, St. Kitts, and Nevis may be able to make good partially the serious losses to property caused by the hurricane; but I am now in a position to say, without exaggeration of the awful destruction in Montserrat, that nothing less than an appeal to the British public, by way of a relief fund at the Mansion House, can be of any use for that island, and that I consider such an appeal absolutely necessary."

Mr. Francis Watts, Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist, who was recently appointed to act on the Local Committee formed in Antigua to correspond with the West India Committee, furnished his Excellency with interesting statistics as to the course, duration, and force of the storm, which members will have seen in the *Times*, of September 1st. In a letter to the Committee, he says:—

"Montserrat has suffered terribly; it seems impossible to exaggerate the damage done; all the churches and chapels are destroyed, the majority of the houses are completely wrecked, those which remain are very badly damaged. The few remaining sugar estates, together with the lime plantations, have been ruined. Nevis has suffered badly, though less severely than Montserrat. Antigua and St. Kitts experienced heavy weather, but escaped with minor damage. Some distress prevails even in these latter Islands, as all the people are very poor. In Montserrat the distress is terrible for the present, supplies of food have been sent promptly by the neighbouring Colonies, but distress in an aggravated form must prevail for a long time to come, and help is urgently solicited."

Mr. W. M. Gordon, Acting Commissioner, Montserrat, in a report dated August 8th, says :—

"The entire island is a wreck. The churches of St. Anthony, St. George, St. Peter, St. John, and St. Mary have been destroyed, also the Wesleyan chapels in town and at Bethel and Cavalla Hill, and the rectories of St. Anthony, St. George, and St. Peter. The town is now composed chiefly of roofless houses, and the streets are blocked with *dbris* and fallen trees; the entire new village known as 'Jubilee Village' on the Government land has been destroyed, and there is, I believe, not a single house left in several of the country districts. Four-fifths of the population are homeless and starving, and food and clothing are urgently required. The hospital and poor-house have been wrecked (the latter being entirely destroyed and the former partially) and I have converted the Court-house into a temporary shelter and hospital. Both the Court-room downstairs and the Council-room upstairs are filled with sick and wounded persons, and with women and children, there being about 500 people now sheltered within the building.

THE PEOPLE ARE AT PRESENT LITERALLY STARVING.

"I have not yet been able to consult the Executive Council on the subject of the urgent necessity for providing food for the people who are trooping in from the country districts by hundreds, but I have, in the meantime, taken upon myself the responsibility of purchasing biscuits, flour, and cornmeal, which are being distributed by the police in the upper story of the Court-house. Whole villages are simply masses of timber and wrecked furniture, the houses being blown into matchwood, and almost all fruit trees have been destroyed. It will be absolutely necessary to provide food for some time, or there will be numberless deaths from starvation. The few houses which have been spared now shelter large numbers of people who will die unless food be provided. The magnitude of the disaster is such that it is futile to think of coping with it locally, and unless speedy aid is forthcoming in the shape of food and clothing I scarcely like to think of the result.

"The medical officers are busy attending to the wounded in the country and in the town, and the police are doing all in their power to render assistance. I have held an inquest on one of the bodies, and have, in the circumstances, felt it necessary to grant permission to bury in the various country districts without an inquest in each case. Dr. Norris, who has just returned from the north district, informs me that in the two populous villages of Salem and Fritts there are only three houses in each left standing, and that there are several cases of serious injuries from falling houses, &c."

From Reports we have received it appears that in Antigua nearly every estate has suffered more or less. The Hon. Edward G. Todd, Hon. Corresponding Secretary for St. Kitts, in a letter dated 14th August states :—

"The all-engrossing subject of interest at present is the cyclone, the effects of which on this Presidency have been extremely disastrous. The full accounts are not yet complete, but while 25 corpses have been already found in Nevis, at least 1,300 to 1,400 small houses have been destroyed, rendering 6 to 7 thousand people homeless. The destitution is very great, and unless relief measures on a large scale be speedily adopted by the government, the results must be awful. Estate buildings and works (particularly in Nevis), have suffered very much, and the damage under this head will take thousands of pounds to replace. The native provisions—bread fruit and similar articles of diet—have been destroyed, and the cane crops, if copious rains do not come speedily, will be endangered. It is impossible in the compass of a short letter like this to state the damage sustained. It is strongly felt that nothing short of a substantial Imperial money grant will meet the terrible state of things that has arisen.

"Even if abundant rains fall and the crops be saved the misery must be very great. If the crops fail it is impossible to conceive what is to become of us. We must just hope for the best and trust that when the facts are fully before them, the government will realise that it is their duty to come to our aid, and in this crowning disaster that has overtaken us, in a large and generous spirit."

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS SOLICIT CENTRAL FACTORY AND IMPERIAL AID.

On the 14th August a large Public Meeting under the auspices of the local branch of the West India Committee was held at St. Kitts, and the following Resolutions were passed unanimously :—

"*Whereas* the destructive cyclone which passed over St. Kitts and Nevis on Monday last, the 7th instant, has, besides causing a serious loss of life in the latter Island, demolished hundreds of dwelling houses, rendered thousands of the labouring class homeless and destitute, destroyed the crop of native provisions—the staple food of the working class—injured and destroyed churches, schools, and many public buildings and public works, seriously damaged Estates' buildings and works, and has generally devastated the Islands, and seriously crippled the resources of the inhabitants thereof."

"*And Whereas* private effort is utterly inadequate to alleviate the great and general distress that prevails now, and is likely to be accentuated in the near future."

BE IT *Resolved* BY THIS PUBLIC MEETING OF THE INHABITANTS OF SAINT KITTS, CONVENED BY THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE :—

"That an appeal be made to the West India Committee to use its influence towards the opening of a Mansion House Relief Fund, and in obtaining from the Imperial Government prompt and generous pecuniary aid for the Islands in their present deplorable condition."

"That, in the opinion of this Meeting, the serious disaster which has overtaken the staple industry of this Presidency by the destruction of Estates' buildings and works and damage to the growing crop in the recent hurricane, affords an additional reason for the prompt adoption of such measures as will lead to the removal of the disabilities under which the industry is at present carried on, and for the establishment of central factories by aid of the Imperial Government."

BE IT *Resolved* :— "That, in view of the urgency of the question, the substance of the first Resolution passed by the Meeting be cabled to the West India Committee."

A MANSION HOUSE FUND OPENED.

At first it was hoped that an appeal to the ever-generous British Public would not prove necessary, but later telegraphic despatches, among which was that from the Hon. Edward G. Todd, the active correspondent of the West India Committee in St. Kitts*, pointed to such a grave state of affairs being

* The following is the text of the Hon. EDWARD G. TODD'S telegram above referred to :— "St. Kitts Nevis, thousands homeless destitute meeting urge appeal Government Mansion House assistance."

existent in the hurricane-swept Islands that the Lord Mayor, in response to an urgent representation by Mr. Chamberlain, consented to immediately open a fund, signifying that fact in the following letter to the Press:—

Sir,

The Mansion House, August 15th, 1899.

I have received the accompanying letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the recent serious hurricane in certain of the West Indian Islands, and I lose no time, in response to Mr. Chamberlain's urgent appeal, in placing the relief organisation at the Mansion House at the disposal of such of the benevolent public as may be willing, of their generosity, to contribute towards the aid of the sufferers by this calamity.

The islands now affected—Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis, and others of the Leeward Group—are not those for whose stricken inhabitants relief was successfully appealed last year. The present ruin concerns those who were then providentially left untouched, but who are now involved in affliction of apparently similar origin, but, if possible, of even more devastating extent.

Mr. Chamberlain feelingly alludes to the distressing circumstances in which Montserrat and others of the afflicted islands have been placed in recent years by the failure of the sugar industry and other matters too well known to need reiteration. These form additional grounds for appealing to the patriotic and prosperous people of the Mother Country to aid these little island communities of theirs in their hour of stress and trial, and I feel certain that this consideration will not be lost sight of by the benevolently minded.

I would appeal to my colleagues—the Lord Mayors and the Mayors and the Lord Provosts and the Provosts of the Kingdom—to give this matter the important advantage of their earnest co-operation in their respective localities, and I invite subscribers to address their contributions either to the Secretary's office at the Mansion House, London; to the Secretary of the West India Committee, Billiter Street Buildings; or to the Bank of England. Cheques should be crossed "Bank of England."

Yours, &c.,

JOHN VOCE MOORE, Lord Mayor.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S APPEAL.

Colonial Office, August 14th, 1899.

My Lord Mayor,

Your Lordship will have already noticed through telegrams which have been communicated to the newspapers that some of the West Indian Islands have been visited by a hurricane, and that among the islands which have suffered are British Colonies in the Leeward Islands group, and especially the Island of Montserrat.

A week has passed since the disaster took place, and though the first telegram received from the Acting Governor on the 10th instant, asked that a Mansion House Relief Fund should be started at once, I deferred communicating with your Lordship in the hope that later news might indicate that it would not be necessary to repeat the appeal which was made on behalf of the West Indian Colonies last September.

There is no submarine cable to the Island of Montserrat, and up to date full particulars have not been received, but such details as have been given point to great loss of life and to want of food and clothing for several thousands, while in the Island of St. Kitts it is stated that three thousand people are homeless.

Under these circumstances I do not feel justified in further postponing an appeal to you to invite public subscriptions on behalf of the sufferers in the Leeward Islands, and I would wish to emphasise the fact that the islands which have suffered this year as much as or even more than those which suffered last year were already from other causes impoverished and distressed, that their administration has only been carried on with Imperial aid, and that poor relief has been a growing charge against falling revenue.

Montserrat in particular has been year after year subject to visitations of various kinds, and I have already on a previous occasion been forced to enlist the aid of the Mansion House on its behalf.

Should your Lordship see fit to open a fund on the present occasion, I venture to hope that in view of the pitiful succession of calamities which have befallen our West Indian Colonies, the appeal may meet with a speedy and liberal response.

I remain, yours very faithfully,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR.

As we go to Press we are informed that the Mansion House Fund amounts to £4,100.

THE FRENCH BOUNTIES.

The French direct bounty, for the season 1899-1900, which has now been fixed by calculation of receipts and expenditure, though below the amount fixed by the law of 1897, represents, owing to the decreased exports of French Sugar, a slight increase on the 1898-1899 figures. The rate for 1898-1899 amounted to 69.129% of the maximum bounty fixed by the law of April 7th, 1897, while the present

rate represents 79.01% of the maximum. The exact amount of the export bounties are given in F. O. Lucas' *Monthly Report*, as follows:—

	In 1899-1900.	1893-1895.	Maximum amount by law of April 7, 1897.
Refined Sugar ...	fcs. 3.55	fcs. 3.11	fcs. 4.50.
Sugar above 98% ...	„ 3.16	„ 2.77	„ 4.00.
Sugar of 65-98% ...	„ 2.76	„ 2.42	„ 3.50.

Herr Licht adds, "This decree, certainly, does not look as if the French export bounties were going to be abolished, as different newspapers announced them to be."

THE ANTI-BOUNTY LEAGUE.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Anti-Bounty League held on Thursday, August 17th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in the chair, it was unanimously resolved to continue the existence of the League with a view to taking further energetic action towards securing the abolition of the Bounty system.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Appended is the further correspondence which has passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office on the above subject.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

Sir,

West India Committee, 9th August, 1899.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, 18,333 99, dated August 3rd, 1899, written by Mr. Lucas at your direction, informing my Committee that, subject to ratification hereafter and to acceptance or refusal by the Colonial Legislature, a Convention for reciprocal tariff arrangements has been signed with the United States on behalf of Trinidad.

I am to thank you for this important information, and respectfully to ask you to be pleased to secure for St. Lucia the option of obtaining similar advantages by entering into a similar Convention on behalf of St. Lucia.

The Right Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., &c., &c., &c.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

Sir,

West India Committee, 10th August, 1899.

With further reference to Mr. Lucas' letter 18333 99 dated August 3rd instant, written at your direction informing my Committee that, subject to ratification hereafter and to acceptance or refusal by the Colonial Legislature, a Convention for reciprocal tariff arrangements has been signed with the United States on behalf of Trinidad.

I am to say that in the opinion of my Committee this arrangement if ratified and finally carried out, cannot fail to prove of considerable benefit to Trinidad. In fact, the advantages to be derived from it by the Colony are so very obvious, that there can be no doubt of its ratification so far as the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council of Trinidad are concerned.

We are, Sir, induced to express our opinion as to the advisability of this treaty inasmuch as at the present moment there is not a single representative of the Sugar Industry on the Legislative Council of Trinidad.

Should you receive any further details on the subject I am respectfully to request you to be pleased to communicate them to my Committee.

The Right Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., &c., &c., &c.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Sir,
Downing Street, 22nd August, 1899.
I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, having reference to the Convention which has recently been signed for Reciprocal Tariff Concessions between Trinidad and the United States of America.

THE CHAIRMAN, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

TRINIDAD IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

A letter, the text of which is given below, signed by six influential Members of the West India Committee who have recently returned from Trinidad, was sent to Mr. Chamberlain on August 16th last, embodying various important suggestions for the amendment of the Trinidad Immigration Ordinance.

Sir,

West India Committee, 16th August, 1899.

We have the honour to call your attention to the Draft Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Immigration to Trinidad which is at present under consideration, and with reference thereto beg respectfully to make the following remarks :

2. Section 67 of this ordinance provides that when 30 per cent. of the adult Male Immigrants have during the year earned a less wage than will give an average of 6d. per diem, no allotment will be made. We would humbly submit that this section should be struck out altogether for the following reasons :—Firstly, that no such section exists in the Immigration Ordinances of British Guiana, Mauritius or any other Colony. Secondly, that if such a section was desirable 25 years ago, Surgeon-Major D. C. D. Comins' Report abundantly proves that there is no need now for Trinidad to be treated in any exceptional manner. We would also point out to you, Sir, that a Special Committee, consisting of the Attorney-General, the Acting Solicitor-General, the Protector of Immigrants and the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, appointed by his Excellency the Governor to consider the proposed amendments included in the exceptions specified under this section all persons in hospital or goal. These have not been inserted in the draft.

3. Section 137. The Sections 127-136 of Ordinance 12 of 1897 having been eliminated it is necessary to make provision for the punishment of those Immigrants unlawfully absent from work. We would therefore suggest the following addition to this section as sub-section (1), "Is unlawfully absent from work." Sub-sections (1) and (2) of the Draft being numbered (2) and (3). The Section as it now stands only provides for absence from work when accompanied by absence from the Estate.

4. Section 136. This Section interferes with the imposition of the penalty for desertion and we would suggest in its place, the following :—"If upon such Immigrant being brought before a Stipendiary Justice of the Peace it appears in respect of what Plantation his services are due, and he fails to prove that at the time of his being arrested he was absent from such Plantation by virtue of a ticket of leave, the Stipendiary Justice shall order such Immigrant to be returned to the Estate to which he is indentured to be dealt with by the Local Magistrate."

We have, etc.,

(Signed) G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, (Signed) WM. HOWATSON,
Sir C. TENNANT, by his Attorney, PETER ABEL,
JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., GEO. WHITE, GEO. GOODWILLE.
&c., &c., &c. W. SLOANE ROBERTSON,

To the above letter, the following reply has been received :—

Downing Street, 21st August, 1899.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of the letter addressed to this Department on the 16th instant by yourself and other gentlemen connected with Trinidad on the subject of the draft Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to immigration in Trinidad.

2. Mr. Chamberlain understands that the Ordinance in question has now been passed, although it has not yet reached this Department, and I am to state that, when copies of the Ordinance have been received, the observations made in the letter under acknowledgment will be carefully considered with it.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

G. T. FENWICK, Esq.

CALCUTTA EMIGRATION REPORT FOR 1898.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has forwarded to the West India Committee a Copy of the Annual Report on emigration from Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies for the year 1898. From this Report it appears that the number of emigrants embarked for the several Colonies during the year under review was 6,223, of whom 2,380, or 38.24 per cent. were conveyed to Demerara; 1,268, or 20.37 per cent. to Trinidad; 1,390, or 22.33 per cent. to Natal; 567, or 9.11 per cent. to Fiji; and 618, or 9.93 per cent. to Surinam.

During the year under report, the number of returned emigrants who re-emigrated to the Colonies under labour contracts was 238, or 3.82 per cent. of the total number of emigrants despatched, against 149, or 1.96 per cent. in the previous year. Of the 238 returned emigrants, 217 had come from the six British Colonies of Demerara, Trinidad, Jamaica, Fiji, Mauritius and Natal, and the remaining 21 from the foreign Colony of Surinam. In re-emigrating the largest number of emigrants, namely, 183, or 76.89 per cent. proceeded to Demerara again, as in the previous year; 44, or 18.48 per cent. to Natal; 8, or 3.86 per cent. to Surinam; and 3, or 1.26 per cent. to Fiji.

The following table which is given in the Report, furnishes particulars regarding the emigrants who returned to India from the several Colonies, the amount of their savings, and the mortality on the return voyages:

COLONIES.	Number of ships.	Number of Steamers.	Total.	Number of souls embarked at colony.	Number of deaths on the voyage, excluding those of infants born on board.	Average percentage of mortality on the voyage.	SAVINGS.		REMARKS.
							Aggregate.	Average amount on the number embarked (columns 5 and 8).	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
							RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Demerara	3*	—	3	1,558	40	2.56	2,14,463 4 2	137 9 9	*One of these vessels conveyed emigrants from Surinam also.
Trinidad	1	—	1	747	6	1.80	1,06,061 11 10	141 15 8	
Mauritius	—	2	2	433	5	1.33	6,451 0 0	14 11 4	
Natal	—	2	2	116	4	3.44	18,051 2 3	155 9 9	
Fiji	1	—	1	363	6	1.52	90,337 14 0	220 13 10	
Surinam	—	—	—	213	2	.93	36,330 13 0	170 13 6	
Guadeloupe	—	1	1	42	—	—	3,301 7 3	80 11 11	
Total	5	5	10	3,602	64	1.82	4,75,057 4 6	135 16 7	

LAST YEAR'S HURRICANE ACCOUNTS.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have received through the Colonial Office with the compliments of the Administrator of St. Vincent and sincere thanks for the liberal contributions which have been made the accounts of the St. Vincent hurricane relief fund to 31st March, 1899. The total amount received since the fund was opened in September last, was £28,892 12s. 1d., of which £18,000 was remitted from the Mansion House fund. The contributions from the Colonial Governments amounted to £4,989 7s. 6d., while £4,827 9s. 10d. was collected by Local Committees in the West Indies. The disbursements to March 31st were £23,860 1s. 4d., leaving a balance of £5,032 10s. 9d. The chief items of the disbursements were £8,611 13s. for purchase of supplies, £4,823 for assistance in erection of private houses, £3,260 for grants to churches and ministers of religion, and £1,450 for relief works, repairing and clearing roads. Of the balance, £3,000 is required for hospital accommodation for those whose bodily health suffered in the hurricane and for giving doles to those rendered destitute by it. The

remainder, with other sums at the disposal of the Government, is being distributed in further assistance in the restoration of houses, and towards this object a further contribution from the Mansion House fund of £2,556 has recently been allotted by the Secretary of State.

It will be remembered that the accounts of the Barbados Hurricane Fund presented in March last by the Governor, who then took the opportunity of expressing, on behalf of the inhabitants, his gratitude for the assistance which was so readily extended to them at the time when they were in great distress from the effects of the hurricane, shewed:—Total amount received £55,128 10s. 1½d., including £12,000 borrowed from the Waterworks Construction Funds, under Act 1898,—16, and £18,000 received from the Mansion House Fund. The principal outgoings were: Hurricane Building Fund, £51,337 2s. 2½d.; Parochial Relief, £1,886 4s. 3½d.; and £1,886 4s. 3½d., the amount paid to the Hon. W. P. Leacock's Fund for relief of persons of the middle class.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE IN ANTIGUA.

The following resolution which was passed at a meeting of the Antigua Branch of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was laid before the Acting Committee on August 27th: "That this Society recognizes the value of the work done on behalf of the West Indies by the West India Committee and is anxious to constitute a local Sub-committee, to be selected from the members of the Society, to collaborate with the central body in England," and a letter from Mr. Kenneth McDonald, the Hon. Secretary of the Agricultural Society, was read, stating that the Hon. J. Freeland Foote, the Hon. J. J. Comacho and Mr. F. Watts were subsequently nominated. It is hardly necessary to say that this announcement was received with general approval and that it was unanimously resolved to maintain a correspondence with the local Committee so appointed.

JAMAICA CROP AND WEATHER REPORT.

For the fortnight ending 12th August the weather in CLARENDON Parish was hot. Rainfall 5.22. As regards the crops, sugar, yams and mangoes are very plentiful. As the mail left, a few pears were coming in. Pineapples are plentiful. The coffee crop promises to be very large, the seasons having been very propitious.

BET PROSPECTS.

IN FRANCE the drought is beginning to have its effect on the beet. The leaves are turning yellow, but there has been no loss as yet. Abundant and immediate rain is required or the weight of the beet will be affected. The heat throughout France is very great. In the Laon district it is reported that the persistent drought will cause positive disaster to beet cultivation if rain does not fall (August 28th). IN GERMANY also, rain is much wanted. In low and well-cultivated districts the beet is still vigorous, and has gained both in weight and in sugar to a satisfactory extent. On the other hand in the high standing, light and permeable soils it is suffering much from the drought; on the whole, however, the prospects remain satisfactory. IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY the weather has been showery and extraordinarily fresh. All the same the progress of the saccharine richness is equivalent to 0.4 per cent. of the beet. Without wishing to make an estimate says the *Wochenschrift*, it would seem that the yield of sugar per hectare will not amount to last year's figure.

COCOA.

MESSRS. C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE:—TRINIDAD.—The tone of the market has been firm throughout the last month and prices have improved to the extent of about 1/ per cwt., due in a great measure to Government purchases. Stocks in first hands are now very reduced, and during the month only 1,522 bags were offered at the auctions, the greater part of these were sold: low middling and middling at 65/ to 67/; good middling 67/6 to 69/6; and fine to superior 70/ to 77/. Deliveries from 1st Jan. to 26th Aug. were 27,903 bags, against 34,733 bags last year, landings 36,241 against 28,107, and stocks on 26th Aug. 27,686 bags against 29,812 bags.

GRENADA.—The course of this market has been very similar to that noticed above, and with a firm tone prevailing prices have advanced about 1s. per cwt. Business has been restricted owing to the small quantity offering, the total brought forward at the auctions not exceeding 1,620 bags: of these the bulk has been disposed of, prices at the last sales being 60s. to 62s. 6d. for ordinary to good fair, and 63s. to 66s. for middling to fine. Deliveries from 1st January to 26th August were 28,638 bags, against 29,907 bags last year, landings 35,485 bags against 38,877 bags, and Stocks 19,794 bags against 21,836 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

MESSRS. E. D. & F. MAN.—The tone of the Proof Market continues very firm, although somewhat irregular, and the sales for the month amount to nearly 2,000 Puns Demerara and Berbice @ 1/6 for common to 1/8 per proof Gallon for fine marks; also 150 puns. Trinidad @ 1/6, being generally ½d. advance. For Jamaica there is a good demand, and prices, though not quotably dearer, are fully maintained. We append the Board of Trade returns.

		1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
Landed	In July	756,975	612,529	507,875	822,620
	7 months	3,075,407	3,699,214	3,602,338	3,786,144
Home Consumption	In July	194,977	199,342	213,150	202,620
	7 months	2,303,047	2,124,440	2,195,406	1,903,179
Export	In July	64,390	57,672	61,511	38,140
	7 months	483,135	492,866	504,631	520,120
Stock	31st July	7,529,000	8,870,000	9,292,000	10,128,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
Jamaica, Puns	13,109	13,898	14,840	15,282
Other West India Islands	1,128	1,038	948	835
Demerara	3,471	5,701	6,506	7,925
Foreign	1,184	1,115	1,528	2,988
British West India	703	208	197	149
Vatted	3,565	3,841	3,972	4,219
Total	23,220	25,801	28,091	31,698

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA, TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Coffee. lbs.	Cocoa lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
BRITISH GUIANA, Jan. 1st to Aug. 17th, 1898	50,517	12,541	—	45,435	—	63,325	15,000	1,979		
" " " 16th, 1899	38,770	8,430	—	120,674	—	66,189	496	4,077		
TRINIDAD, " " " 1898	455,960	834	10,000	17,210,800	61,608	—	6,700,324	3,688	98	1,203
" " " 1899	473,602	1,470	5,120	23,141,080	82,991	—	7,801,120	9,420	293	183
BARBADOS " " " 19th, 1898	67,740	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		32,640
" " " 1899	45,787	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		28,980

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to Aug. 26th, 1899, 378,316 tons, against 482,302 tons in 1898, and 410,808 tons in 1897.
 DELIVERIES " " 408,728 " " 471,876 " " 475,375 " "
 PRESENT STOCKS:—46,637 tons against 102,236 tons in 1898, and 68,493 tons in 1897.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

1,176,180 tons, against 1,374,737 tons in 1898, and 1,436,239 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88% (Czarnikow) 10 1½ in 1899, against 9 6 in 1898 and 8 10½ in 1897.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

ANTIGUA.—(Messrs. Boddingtons). 10th Aug.: "Have had hurricane, buildings damaged not serious, crops slightly damaged." (Messrs. Lee, Crerar & Co.). 10th Aug.: "Considerable damage done." (Messrs. Boddingtons). 1st Sept.: "Rainfall general, 2" to 3"."
 BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 8th Aug.: "Seasonable weather but rain still wanted." DEMERARA.—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.). 16th Aug.: "Weather too dry." 24th Aug.: "Weather dry, with occasional showers, but more rain would be acceptable." (Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) 10th Aug.: "Dry weather appears to have set in, some rain wanted." 15th Aug.: "Weather very dry, rain much wanted." 24th Aug.: "A little rain has fallen since last message." (New Colonial Co.), 24th Aug.: "Over 3" rain in Berbice, over 2" rain in Essequibo. Moderate rains in Demerara, more would do good." 29th Aug.: "Weather dry and rain much wanted." ST. KITTS.—(Messrs. Boddingtons), 10th Aug.: "Hurricane, great damage." TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.), 30th Aug.: "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following publications have been received during the past month and can be inspected at the Committee Room:—*Annual Report on Emigration from Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies, 1898*; *The Jamaica Official Gazette*; *British Honduras Government Gazette*; *Trinidad Royal Gazette*; *St. Vincent Hurricane Relief Fund Accounts to 31st March, 1899*; *Barbados Diamond Jubilee Directory, 1899*; *The Demerara Fortnightly Market Reports*; *Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co.)*; *Messrs. G. W. Bennet Bryson's Fortnightly Report*; *F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, 19th Aug. (No. III.)*; *Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Wilson, Smithett & Co.'s, and C. M. & C. Woodhouse's Circulars, and The International Sugar Journal, Vol. I. No. 9; Sept.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Members and Subscribers are informed that, in view of the holidays, no further circular will be issued, and no meetings of the Acting Committee held during the month of September. Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 21.

Telegrams
"CARIB," LONDON.
Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

October 30th, 1899.

TRINIDAD IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

We have received the following further letter from Mr. Chamberlain on the subject of this Ordinance, from which it seems it "will not be disallowed," and that Mr. Chamberlain has not seen his way, for the reasons given in his despatch to the Governor, to allow any of the amendments to this Ordinance recommended by my Committee. My Committee are disappointed at this decision on the part of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In his despatch to the Governor however, we observe that Mr. Chamberlain in paragraph 7, instructs the Protector of Immigrants to note the objections raised by the deputation that waited on him in August last, "and to be prepared to report on them if occasion should arise, to amend the Ordinance again." In the meantime nothing further can be done in the matter.

Sir,

Downing Street, 18th October, 1899.

With reference to the letter of the 16th August signed by several members of your Committee, and also to the Conference held at this Office on the 28th August, at which you and Mr. Fenwick were present, I am desired by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you for your information the accompanying copy of an Ordinance of the Legislature of Trinidad entitled "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Immigration" which will not be disallowed. As will be seen from the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed to the Governor of Trinidad, Mr. Chamberlain after carefully considering the objections raised by your Committee, has not seen his way at the present time, for the reasons explained in the despatch, to direct any of the amendments of this law recommended by your Committee.

I am, etc.,

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

We append a further letter from the Colonial Office relative to a Reciprocity Convention for St. Lucia.

Downing Street, 7th September, 1899.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 9th and 23rd ultimo, and to inform you that the question of rendering negotiations with the Government of the United States for a reciprocity Convention in regard to St. Lucia is engaging his attention.

I am, etc.,

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

ST. KITTS.

From this Island we learn that the Local Committee had held a meeting to discuss the question of Reciprocity with America, and had passed resolutions on the subject appointing Mr. Henry M. Abbott as their delegate to represent them on this side. Resolutions were also passed at a meeting of the Legislative Council on the 21st of September, endorsing the proposals of the Local Committee, and proposing that the deficit in the revenue caused by the abolition and modification of duties on imports from America should be made good on the principle of seven-tenths by direct taxation on the Sugar Cane Industry, and three-tenths by an increase of Import Duties which would fall on the general public.

On Mr. Abbott's arrival the Committee will confer, and co-operate with him with a view to bringing the matter to a successful issue.

JAMAICA.

We are given to understand that in its present form the scheme for a Fruit and Shipping Co., between Jamaica and the United Kingdom direct, has for the time being fallen through.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.

On the 18th of October, a pamphlet was read before the Political and Economic circle of the National Liberal Club, by Mr. Mayson Beeton, B.A., Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in the chair. It is understood that the general sense of those present was opposed to the continuance of the Bounty system, the opposition to this view having been of a very weak character.

THE MANSION HOUSE FUND.

The collections in aid of the sufferers by the recent hurricane in the Leeward Islands amounts to about £6,900, of which £6,500 has been remitted, and we understand the fund will probably be shortly closed.

Many of the sister colonies rendered pecuniary aid, and Barbados, to her credit, added no less than £768 by private subscriptions, and the Legislature gave £2,000, although in the previous year the Island was visited by a severe hurricane, which proves that the West Indian Colonies are ready to help one another, and do not depend solely on the mother country to relieve them when visited by disastrous cyclones like those of the last two years.

SUGAR CANE PROSPECTS.

Regarding the Colonies, it is announced from Cuba, that the weather there is satisfactory now, but that from the previous quite uncommon dryness during the main part of the wet season, in the months of July and August, the cane fields have suffered very much. The newly planted cane is said not to come to be wrought, and even if quite exceptionally favourable weather should prevail until the beginning of the harvest season, only a production of about 300,000 tons might be counted on. In *Portorico* the prospects have been improved by corresponding weather, but still it is thought that the production will reach only about 50,000 tons. The state of the cane in *Trinidad*, *Barbados* and *Martinique* is corresponding to a middling crop, while *Guadeloupe* is prognosticating minor results. The figures of the *Demerara* crop, owing to the prolonged dryness, are moving at present between 80,000 and 90,000 tons, while *Brazil*, in spite of the unfavourable weather, is counting on a crop considerably larger than last year's. The statements from *Louisiana* and beet districts of North America are such, that the total sugar production of the United States, without *Portorico* and *Hawaii*, is ranging between 350,000 and 400,000 tons. *Java* has lately reported a smoother run of the grinding operations. In the *Philippine* Islands the political situation is still very bad, and a larger export than last year's does not seem probable. *Mauritius* is estimating its coming season at about 150,000 tons, that of *Hawaii* is thought to reach at least 250,000 tons.

Though for easily comprehended reasons a statement in figures of the cane crop of 1899 1900 at the present moment cannot be an exact one, we give below the estimates of the new crop for the period between September 1st and August 31st:—

1899/1900.	1898/99.	1897/98.	1896/97.	1895/96.
2,700,000.	2,851,134.	2,560,677.	2,419,293.	2,742,252.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

In consequence of the absence of Mr. Aspinall from illness following on his holiday, the Committee were unable to issue their usual monthly circular in the early part of October, although there are but few matters of interest to record at the present time. Members of the Committee will be glad to hear that Mr. Aspinall is now convalescent and hopes very shortly to be allowed to resume work.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. W. Woodhouse:—TRINIDAD.—

A very quiet tone prevailed in the market during the first half of the last two months, and although only 1,625 bags were offered at the auction, not more than half were disposed of. At the commencement of the month, an advance of 1s. per cwt. was paid for good middling to fine qualities, but this was not maintained and prices on the whole showed no change. During the last four weeks, however, there has been a greatly improved demand, partly due to Government purchases, and prices have advanced fully 2s. to 4s. per cwt., the market closing with a strong tone. During the month about 2,000 bags have been sold, quotations at the close being 68s. to 71s. 6d. for low middling to middling; 72s. to 74s. 6d. for

good middling and 75s. to 77s. for fine to superior. Deliveries continue light, the total from 1st January to 21st October being 33,451 bags against 40,985 bags last year; landings were 37,491 bags against 29,991 bags and stocks on 21st October 23,388 bags against 25,444 bags.

GRENADA.—The volume of business transacted in this article during the last two months has been small, but supplies have been fully sufficient to meet the limited demand. In all, about 2,200 bags have been sold. The market at first showed a declining tendency, but prices have since recovered, and present rates are almost identical with those ruling at the date of our last report, viz., 59s. to 62s. 6d. for ordinary to good fair and 63s. to 65s. 6d. for middling to fine. Deliveries from 1st January to 21st October were 34,866 bags against 35,290 bags last year, landings 36,138 bags against 39,776 bags and stocks on 21st October, 14,219 bags against 17,354 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. MAN.—The proof market continues very firm for Demerara and Berbice, with sales of 360 Puns at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d. per proof gallon, being again $\frac{1}{2}$ d. dearer. Pale proof kinds, on the other hand, are difficult to move and Matanzas has been sold at a low figure.

For Jamaicas, the tone continues firm, particularly for the commoner home trade kinds, and stocks in first hands are in a very small compass.

We append the Board of Trade returns:—

	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
LANDED.—In September	365,312	272,680	320,958	142,728
Nine months	4,328,245	4,562,032	4,274,675	4,231,792
HOME CONSUMPTION.—In September	272,089	242,959	293,727	279,322
Nine Months	2,794,969	2,578,776	2,691,238	2,404,783
EXPORT.—In September	97,903	77,326	33,311	88,379
Nine months	622,734	622,401	647,475	661,956
STOCK. Cbls., 30th September	8,027,000	8,976,000	9,199,000	9,830,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

JAMAICA	12,448	14,698	14,386	14,752 puns.
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS	746	870	920	477 "
DEMERARA	3,295	6,129	5,753	6,941 "
FOREIGN	1,682	1,002	1,486	2,575 "
BRITISH EAST INDIA	1,472	396	247	381 "
VATTED	3,628	3,573	3,690	4,347 "
Total	24,271	26,668	26,482	29,473 puns.

JAMAICA CROP AND WEATHER REPORT.

The weather in the Parish of Manchester has been very changeable, with thunder and lightning. With regard to crops, the Pimento is over; Coffee coming in is very poor in quality; Oranges just coming in.

In the Parish of Clarendon the rainfall was 6.23 inches; the thermometer was 72° to 74° in the morning, 86° to 88° at noon, and 78° to 80° in the evening. With regard to crops here, the Pimento crop is closing; Coffee crop is just being picked and promises to be larger. Oranges, fair crop, competition keen, system of buying by runners still prevailing; the Mangoes are finishing; Pears still plentiful; Ground Provisions plentiful; Bananas plentiful, but no demand, Cassava Starch and Cocoanuts plentiful.

BEEET PROSPECTS.

Though they cannot be taken as final estimates we give the following figures of the European beet sugar production, comparing them with the preceding campaigns as follows:—

	1899/1900	1898/99	1897/98	1896/97	1895/96
GERMANY	1,800,000	1,721,718	1,852,557	1,836,536	1,615,111 tons.
AUSTRIA	1,070,000	1,051,290	831,667	934,007	791,405 "
FRANCE	915,000	830,132	821,235	752,081	667,853 "
RUSSIA	870,000	790,000	738,715	728,667	712,096 "
BELGIUM	250,000	235,000	265,397	288,009	235,795 "
HOLLAND	175,000	149,763	125,658	174,206	106,829 "
OTHER COUNTRIES	220,000	170,000	196,245	202,990	156,340 "
Total	5,300,000	4,947,903	4,831,774	4,916,586	4,285,429 tons.

Thus the campaign of 1899/1900 is now giving prospects of a surplus of about 352,000 tons, against its predecessor; but we remark again that exact figures for 1899/1900 cannot be given.

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Coffee. lbs.	Cocoa lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses		
								Puns.	Trcs.	Brs.
BRITISH GUIANA—										
Jan. 1st to Oct. 12th, 1898 ..	63,797	14,230	—	48,999	—	79,800	15,000	2,284		
Jan. 1st to Oct. 11th, 1899 ..	42,294	8,901	—	124,778	—	83,726	496	4,077		
TRINIDAD—										
	Bags & Bris.									
Jan. 1st to Oct. 11th, 1898 ..	464,880	834	10,430	17,887,570	74,070	—	9,178,600	4,423	98	1,726
Jan. 1st to Oct. 11th, 1899 ..	475,448	1,479	6,240	23,724,350	108,010	—	9,344,660	10,353	203	139

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to Oct. 21st, 1899 ..	472,742 tons, against 564,195 tons in 1898, and 511,101 tons in 1897.
DELIVERIES ..	508,788 .. 577,721 .. 575,087 ..
PRESENT STOCKS ...	41,045 .. 77,784 .. 69,074 ..

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

805,495 tons against 787,600 tons in 1898 and 970,121 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

Per 88% (Czarnikow) 9s. 1½d. against 9s. 7½d. to 9s. 8½d. in 1898 and 8s. 4½d. to 8s. 5½d. in 1897.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

ANTIGUA.—(Messrs. Boddingtons). 11th Sept.: "Damage caused by storms to buildings less seriously, crops rather more than last, rainfall general, 5" to 9".

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 5th Sept.: "Rain much wanted, crops suffering." 19th Sept.: "idem." 30th Sept.: "A few light showers have fallen but more rain would be acceptable." 17th Oct.: "idem." 23rd Oct.: "Fine rains generally throughout the island, and appearances of more."

DEMERARA.—(Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) 7th Sept.: "Some showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted." 21st Sept.: "idem."

TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.) 14th September: "Weather too dry." 22nd Sept.: "Heavy rains, beneficial to cultivation." 3rd Oct. "Dry weather, crops suffering." 26th Oct.: "Showery and unsettled." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons and Co.). 26th Oct.: "Showery, very favourable and general."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following publications have been received during the past two months and can be inspected at the Committee Room:—*Report of proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute Vols. XIV. to XXX. 1882 to 1899; Trinidad Blue Book for the year 1898; Report of the Immigration Agent-General of British Guiana for the year 1898-99; Further correspondence relating to the Finances and Government of the Island of Jamaica; Fifteenth Annual Report of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants Exchange 1898-99; Jamaica Weather Report for the months of July and August, 1899; Trinidad Royal Gazette, including the Trinidad and Tobago Ordinances Nos. 18 to 20 of 1899, and Trinidad Council Papers, Nos. 99 to 108 of 1899; Jamaica Official Gazette; British Honduras Government Gazette; The Demerara Fortnightly Market Reports; Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co., and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet Bryson's Fortnightly Report; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Wilson, Smithett & Co.'s, and C. M. & C. Woodhouse's Circulars, and The International Sugar Journal, Vol. I. No. 10, Oct.*

JOHN SPOONER,

Acting Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

Telegrams
"CARIB" LONDON.
A.B.C. Code Used,
4th Edition.
Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 22.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

November 27th, 1899.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Secretary, Mr. Algernon F. Aspinall, will leave on Wednesday for Demerara per R.M.S. "Para," the Acting Committee having decided that it is advisable that he should visit the West Indies and British Guiana in order to make himself more fully acquainted with the condition of affairs there existent. It is anticipated that the Secretary will be absent in all for about four months. As at present arranged he will, after spending about a fortnight in Demerara, visit the Islands in turn in as far as possible the following order—Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and back to Barbados *en route* for Jamaica. During Mr. Aspinall's absence Mr. John Spooner will act as Secretary to the West India Committee.

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SUGAR BOUNTIES.

At the second monthly dinner of the Chamber on Wednesday, 20th December, at the Trocadero Restaurant, the subject for discussion will be "Sugar Bounties." The chair will be taken by Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G.; and amongst the speakers will be Sir Thomas Sutherland, G.C.M.G., M.P. We learn that invitations have also been sent to Lord Northbrook, Lord Stanmore, Sir Henry Norman, Sir Horace Tozer and M. Yves Guyot.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

From Demerara we learn that the combined Court have decided to adhere to the Tariff convention with the United States, adopting the Government's proposal stipulating, should it be possible, that, if during the time the convention is in force the United States reduces her duties so that the benefit to the Colony is lost, the Imperial Government shall have powers to denounce the convention.

From Trinidad on the other hand we understand the Legislative Council has practically rejected the scheme altogether. Opinions differ as to the expediency of our West Indian Colonies entering into these reciprocity arrangements with America, for reasons, amongst others, which appear in our correspondence with the Colonial Office, published in a previous Circular—No. 19. At the same time we have always felt it is a question each Colony should be left to decide for itself, without external pressure one way or the other, after weighing the arguments for and against the proposed Convention.

It does not, however, appear as if Trinidad realises that the West Indian Colonies are not called upon to give up anything but are merely asked to re-arrange their incidents of taxation.

THE LATE RICHARD M. HARVEY.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Richard Musgrave Harvey, a member of the old established West Indian firm, Thomson, Hankey & Co. of Mincing Lane. Mr. Harvey was a familiar figure in the City where his business capacities had long been recognised by his being made a Director of several influential Companies. His loss will be regretted by a wide circle of friends, and by the philanthropic institutions in which he was interested, and all who came in contact with him in business or otherwise agree that no kinder hearted man could be met with. His loss will be much felt by the West India Committee, of which he was an active member.

BET EXPERIMENTS IN ENGLAND.

An extremely interesting report has just been issued regarding experiments by the Earl of Denbigh in the growing of sugar beetroots at Newnham Paddock. The seed was sown on May 13th of the present year and the roots were drawn on the 24th of last month. The analysis since completed shows the most satisfactory results, the quotient of purity and the percentage of sugar being in excess of what was obtained from roots grown at Magdeburg in Germany. Further experiments will be conducted at Newnham Paddock next year.

NEW COLONIAL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The third ordinary general meeting of this company was held on the 3rd inst., at the offices, 20, Eastcheap, under the presidency of Sir Nevile Lubbock, who said that he thought that the result presented would be regarded as satisfactory. They had for the past year made a net profit of £57,497 (after payment of interest on Debenture Stock), to which had to be added £8,330 brought forward from last year, making £65,836. Out of this sum £10,000 had been paid to the trustees for the Debenture-holders to the credit of a special reserve fund for investment under the terms of the trust deed, £12,500 had been set aside to meet the cost of future improvements to the estates, and £20,000 had been carried to the general reserve account. The directors had declared a dividend, payable on the 3rd inst., of 5 per cent. on the Preference Shares, calculated from July 1st, 1898, on the £4 10s. per share then credited or paid up, and from August 16th, 1898, on 10s. per share, the final call payable on that date, which would absorb £11,618, leaving a balance of £11,717 carried forward to the next account. Referring to the criticisms in *Truth* on the Company's account last year, Sir Nevile Lubbock pointed out that what the writer of these remarks failed to see was that at present, thanks to the United States market, this Company was not affected by the bounties given by Foreign Governments, as in the United States, where they sent their sugar cane and beetroot sugar were placed on an equality, which was what they claimed should be done by the British Government.

THE JAMAICA FRUIT STEAMER SERVICE.

The *Times* Jamaica Correspondent states that on November 17th last, at an important and representative meeting, the Archbishop presiding, it was resolved to urge the Government and the Colonial Office to enter immediately into negotiations with Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. to establish a direct line of fruit steamers. He adds that the whole Island is in favour of it.

THE CODRINGTON COLLEGE FUND.

In view of the Rev. H. W. Tucker's statement on behalf of the Trustees that they are "now relieved from the consideration of the question of suspending the work of Codrington College," the fund inaugurated by the West India Committee at the instigation of Mr. Ponsonby, for the sustentation of that Institution has now been closed. The Committee take this opportunity of recording their gratitude to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the other signatories of the original appeal who have contributed to this satisfactory result. Appended is the final list of subscribers and the statement of accounts of the fund.

* See Circular No. 19 p. 6.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
DURHAM UNIVERSITY	25 0 0	CANON F. MEYRICK, collected at Bickling Church	2 2 0
A. ST. JOHN PARRY, ESQ.	25 0 0	REV. F. R. TENNANT	2 0 0
MRS. FLENDERLEATH	5 0 0	A. S. CHAVASSE, ESQ.	1 1 0
MRS. SMITH C. DONCASTER	5 0 0	MRS. WENTWORTH ERCK	1 0 0
REV. E. H. BIRLEY	2 10 0		

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Dr.		Cr.	
£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
By Donations received	2,047 9 2	To Messrs. Street & Co., Advertising	181 19 5
		" Messrs. F. G. Andrews, Printing Circulars	12 2 0
		" Messrs. Geo. Smith & Co., Addressing Circulars and Postage	9 18 9
		" Messrs. Eden Fisher & Co., Printing	4 16 9
		" Messrs. Blades, East & Blades, Receipt Forms	0 15 6
		" Office Expenses	0 19 2
		" Draft Stamps	0 4 2
		" Commission on Drafts	0 1 0
		" Balance handed to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel as Trustees of Codrington College, as per their Receipts of the 12th May and 18th November, 1899.	1,886 11 8
	<u>£2,047 9 2</u>		<u>£2,047 9 2</u>

Examined with Vouchers and passed as correct,

ARTHUR C. PONSONBY,
WALLWYN FOYER B. SHEPHEARD,
R. RUTHERFORD,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Sec.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. W. Woodhouse:—TRINIDAD.—A quiet tone has prevailed in this market since the date of our last report, but prices have on the whole had an upward tendency. At the auctions 3,599 bags were offered, and about 1,100 bags sold; but in addition a fairly extensive business has been effected privately, and sales for the month amount to fully 2,000 bags. Quotations at the close are 69s. to 72s. 6d. for low middling to middling, 73s. to 75s. 6d. for good middling, and 76s. to 78s. 6d. for fine to superior. Deliveries from 1st January to 21st November were 36,311 bags, against 44,945 bags last year; landings, 38,289 bags against 30,762 bags; and stocks on 21st November 21,326 bags, against 21,255 bags.

GRENADA.—With supplies in first hands reduced to a very low ebb, the small quantity of Grenada offering has been very firmly held, and prices show an advance of 1s. for fair and 2s. to 3s. per cwt. for fine, business being chiefly confined to second-hand parcels. At the auctions only 1,187 bags were brought forward, and of these about 300 sold; prices at the last sales, held on the 21st inst., being 61s. to 64s. 6d. for ordinary to good fair, and 65s. 6d. to 68s. 6d. for middling to fine. Deliveries from 1st January to 21st November were 37,852 bags, against 38,049 bags last year; landings, 36,449 bags against 40,155 bags; and stocks on 21st November 11,544 bags, against 14,974 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. MAN.—A continued good demand prevails for Demerara and Berbice, but owing to absence of supplies, no sales are reported, with the exception of 100 puns Surinam, the prices of which did not transpire. The "Titanic" has arrived from Demerara with 190 puncheons. For Jamaica the tone continues firm, but quiet, the supplies in first hands being practically exhausted. We append the Board of Trade returns, which continue satisfactory:—

	1896.	1895.	1897.	1896.
LANDED.—In October	381,338	268,510	54,439	304,563
Ten months	4,699,250	4,853,830	4,335,470	4,564,355
HOME CONSUMPTION.—In October	457,075	371,477	350,952	401,570
Ten Months	3,252,044	2,950,253	3,042,190	2,606,353
EXPORT.—In October	133,282	101,487	83,850	128,222
Ten months	756,016	723,891	731,325	790,178
Stock.—Gals., 31st October	7,764,000	8,703,000	8,793,000	9,573,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

JAMAICA	13,077	14,638	13,754	14,991 puns.
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS	697	825	905	453 "
DEMERARA	2,953	5,501	5,243	6,188 "
FOREIGN	1,927	933	1,450	2,473 "
BRITISH EAST INDIA	1,626	333	276	378 "
VATTED	3,438	3,639	3,799	4,334 "
Total	23,718	25,919	25,427	28,817 puns.

JAMAICA CROP AND WEATHER REPORT.

North Manchester Parish: During the past fortnight the rains here have been very heavy. They began on the morning of the 26th, and lasted till midday on the 29th, doing great damage to the crops. Things in general are looking very gloomy, Bananas all destroyed and Coffee has been beaten off the trees; houses were washed away, but fortunately no lives were lost. We have great cause for thankfulness, as we hear other parts have suffered much more.

Clarendon Parish: The rainfall here has been 21.17 inches on the 26th to 29th ultimo (4 days), it was 18.42 inches, the district was flooded, and high winds prevailed. The new bridge across the Rio Minto, at Savoy (the largest of the lot erected and opened to the traffic last year) was washed away. A good deal of produce was destroyed by the wind and rain. With regard to crops, the Coffee is coming into the market ordinarily; a little Cocoa is still coming in, but very little Kola and Pimento. Oranges are plentiful, and the price has dropped. Very few Bananas are coming in, and there is no demand for them. Ground Provisions and Plantains are plentiful.

BEET PROSPECTS.

In GERMANY the weather during October favoured the crop, but for the present Licht leaves his figures unchanged at 1,800,000 tons. In AUSTRIA the weather had assisted in improving the output and the pulling of the Beet. The yield of sugar had risen considerably, but a continuation of the warm weather might have a prejudicial effect. From FRANCE accounts are very satisfactory. Some estimate the crop at 1,000,000 tons, much depends on the weather, but Licht puts it down at 950,000 for the present. For RUSSIA the preliminary estimate is 885,000 tons.—Licht's Circular, 18th Nov., 1899.

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Coffee. lbs.	Cocoa lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA—								
Jan. 1st to Nov. 8th, 1899 ..	52,262	9,408	—	124,778	—	90,062	496	4,422
Jan. 1st to Nov. 9th, 1898 ..	74,562	14,644	—	52,401	—	92,841	16,000	2,980
TRINIDAD—								
	Bags & Brls.							Puns. Tons. Brls.
Jan. 1st to Nov. 8th, 1899 ..	476,103	1,479	6,240	24,082,880	121,691	—	9,890,760	10,903 298 183
Jan. 1st to Nov. 9th, 1898 ..	467,494	834	10,480	18,838,890	84,814	—	10,564,197	4,954 127 1,908

By the courtesy of Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son we are enabled to give the following details of the Exports from Grenada and the Grenadines for the past four seasons.

CROP.	COCOA. Bags.	SPICE. Packages.	COTTON. Bales.	COTTON SEED. Bags.	LOGWOOD. Tons.
1st Oct. to 30th Sept.					
1895—1896	46,504	2,913	865	5,738	326
1896—1897	54,597	2,920	574	3,889	160
1897—1898	53,441	3,451	783	5,254	45
1898—1899	52,141	3,976	641	4,281	29½

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to Nov. 18th, 1899 ...	523,405 tons, against 615,316 tons in 1898, and 570,042 tons in 1897.
DELIVERIES " " ...	558,776 " 680,499 " 633,700 "
PRESENT STOCKS ...	41,715 " 76,127 " 69,402 "

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

1,208,256 tons against 1,236,242 tons in 1898 and 1,190,818 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

Per 88% (Czarnikow) 9s. Od. to 9s. 0½d. against 10s. 2d. to 10s. 1¾d. in 1898 and 8s. 10½d. to 8s. 11½d. in 1897.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). Oct. 30th: "First part of fortnight rainy, latter dry." Nov. 4th: "Fine rains generally and appearance of more." Nov. 10th: "Weather all that can be desired." **DEMERARA.**—(New Colonial Co.) Oct. 28th: "Drought continues." (Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Nov. 23rd: "Water very scarce, grinding re-starting." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) Nov. 3rd: "Showery, very favourable, general." (New Colonial Co.) Nov. 20th: "Showery and favourable for cultivation."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following publications received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Room:—*The Sugar Journal and Tropical Cultivation*; *Tours in the West Indies*: Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.; *Industrial Cuba*, by Robert P. Porter: G. P. Putnam's Sons'—15/; *Further correspondence relating to the Hurricane in the West Indies on 10th and 12th September, 1898*; *Jamaica Weather Report for the month of September, 1899*; *Trinidad Royal Gazette, including the Trinidad and Tobago Ordinances Nos. 21 to 23 of 1899, and Trinidad Council Papers, Nos. 109 to 123 of 1899*; *Jamaica Official Gazette*; *British Honduras Government Gazette*; *The Demerara Fortnightly Market Reports*; *Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co., and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.)*; *Messrs. G. W. Bennet Bryson's Fortnightly Report*; *R. O. Licht's Monthly Report, Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Wilson, Smithett & Co.'s, and C. M. & C. Woodhouse's Circulars, and The International Sugar Journal, Vol. I. No. 11, Nov.*

JOHN SPOONER,

Acting Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

143

REPORT
of the
ACTING COMMITTEE
of the
WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
FOR THE YEAR 1899.

The Acting Committee regret their delay in presenting to Members the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure and the Annual Report of the West India Committee for the year 1899, which has been due to the absence of the Secretary in the West Indies.

**THE ACTING
COMMITTEE.**

During the year, 20 meetings of the Acting Committee have been held, in addition to frequent meeting of sub-committees, appointed from time to time for special purposes. The monthly circular of the West India Committee and the various publications of the Anti-Bounty League have been regularly posted to Members.

**THE ANTI-BOUNTY
LEAGUE.**

Members will note that a further substantial amount has been subscribed during the past year by the West India Committee towards the Funds of the Anti-Bounty League, with which a close co-operation has been maintained. The year has witnessed the imposition of countervailing duties on bounty fed sugar by the Indian Government and by a majority of nearly two to one the Indian Tariff Act was approved by the House of Commons on June 15th, a result largely due to the efforts of the League, which by propaganda and public meetings has done so much to educate public opinion regarding this important matter.

**CORRESPONDING
BRANCHES.**

A correspondence has been inaugurated with the Agricultural Society of Grenada, so that Corresponding Branches have now been established in British Guiana and all the important West Indian Islands. Your Committee also keep in communication with the old established West India Associations of Liverpool and Glasgow.

IMMIGRATION.

Through the efforts of your Committee the Colonial Office has agreed to increase the number of Coolie immigrants to be introduced into British Guiana and Trinidad which it was proposed to reduce, from 2,500 to 4,000, and 1,200 to 2,400 respectively, for the season 1899-1900, a most important matter for these Colonies.

RUM SURTAX.

With the case of the Rum Surtax, your Committee are again able to report progress, inasmuch as the Chancellor of the Exchequer has now admitted that the Surtax may operate in some measure to the disadvantage of the West Indian Colonies. A pamphlet was issued early in the year embodying the full correspondence which has taken place between your Committee and Her Majesty's Government on the matter, and subsequent correspondence was duly recorded in the monthly circular

**SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK
AND SIR CUTHBERT
QUILTER'S VISIT
TO THE WEST INDIES.**

Early in the year your Chairman, Sir Neville Lubbock, and Sir Cuthbert Quilter paid a visit to the West Indies with a view to ascertaining the possibility of organising some scheme for the erection of Central Factories in the Islands and copies of Sir Cuthbert Quilter's Report to Mr. Chamberlain were subsequently published by the Committee for the information of Members.

RECIPROCITY.

The action taken by your Committee as to Reciprocity with the United States, has been fully recorded in the monthly circular.

HURRICANE IN THE
LEEWARD ISLANDS.

On August 7th the Leeward Islands were visited by a hurricane, hardly, if at all less severe than that which wrought such havoc in Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent in 1898, and it's disastrous effects were accentuated by a second hurricane on September 7th. Much damage was done in St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and Antigua. Your Committee accordingly at once communicated with the Lord Mayor, as to the advisability of opening a Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers, and on receipt of an urgent appeal from Mr. Chamberlain, Sir John Voce Moore consented to open a fund. Subscriptions were received by the West Indies Committee, and in all £7,327 were subscribed.

CODRINGTON COLLEGE,
BARBADOS.

Your Committee at the instance of the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, were successful in averting the closing of Codrington College, Barbados. An appeal for funds for this purpose was issued, signed by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, and other Noblemen and Gentlemen, with the result that £2,063 19s. 2d. was collected and this old University has been enabled to continue its career of usefulness.

DOMINICA.

At the request of some of the leading inhabitants of Dominica, your Committee approached the Colonial Bank with a view to inducing them to continue their branch in Dominica. Your Committee is glad to find that the Colonial Bank has now decided to continue the branch on trial for a further twelve months.

MERCHANDIZE MARKS
ACTS.

Your Committee continue to keep before them questions arising out of the Adulteration and Merchandize Marks Acts, which protect the buyers of sugar, securing to them the quality for which they ask, and have under consideration, the possibility of a revival of the "Cane Sugar Union."

THE SECRETARY'S TOUR
THE WEST INDIES.

Your Committee deemed it advisable that the Secretary should visit the West Indies, in order to acquire some knowledge of the condition of the industries and to make himself personally acquainted with the leading representatives of the various Colonies. He accordingly left London on November 28th and visited British Guiana and each of the Islands in turn. In many of the Islands, meetings of the Agricultural Planting and Mercantile Associations were held to meet Mr. Aspinall, and it is hoped that his tour while rendering his services more useful to the Committee, may serve finally to dispel the idea, that the West India Committee, established for over 125 years, is interested in a single industry, and to make it more widely known that any matter affecting the welfare and prosperity of the British West Indies, will gladly receive its attention.

OBITUARY.

Your Committee have to deplore the death during the past year, of the following Members, Mr. Robert M. Harvey, a Member of the Acting Committee, Captain L. T. Cave, Mr. C. Washington Eves, C.M.G., and the Rev. Canon Hinds Howell.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON.

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

WITH THIS REPORT IS FORWARDED TO MEMBERS, THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

WITH THIS REPORT IS FORWARDED TO MEMBERS, THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS
EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

West India Committee
British Society, Broad Street,
London.

ALGERNON F. ASPHYNALL, Secretary.
N. DUBROCK, Chairman.

CONTENTS.

Mr. Herbert M. Spencer's Memorandum of the Acting Committee, Captain A. F. Cane, Mr. C. H. Washington

1898-99, and the Hon. Cecil Harcourt Harcourt.
Your Committee have pleasure to deliver the death during the last year of the following Members:
Messrs. G. M. G. and the Hon. Cecil Harcourt Harcourt.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

REPORT
of
THE ACTING COMMITTEE
of the
WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.
FOR THE YEAR 1899.

DOMINICA.

At the meeting of some of the leading inhabitants of Dominica, Your Committee approached the
description.

DOMINION COLLEGE.

from the year of the collection and this old University has been enabled to continue its career of
by the grant the description of continuing, and other Noblemen and Gentlemen, with the result
of the Dominion College, Antigua. An appeal for funds for this purpose was issued signed
Your Committee on the initiative of the Hon. A. G. Pomeroy, were successful in procuring the
indication.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

to erect a hall. Contributions were received by the West India Committee, and in all £5,387 were
aided, and on receipt of an urgent appeal from Mr. Chamberlain, Sir John Wood, Mr. Stone consented
with the Lord Mayor, as to the expediency of opening a Mission House Fund for the relief of the
Dominion College, Antigua. Your Committee accordingly at once communicated
them that they would be pleased to contribute to the building of the said hall, and it is
On the 25th of the present month were raised by a private party, in all less seven

64